



# KINGDOM COME™



Mark WAID      Alex ROSS



KINGDOM COME BOOK FOUR



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DC COMICS

Mark WAID Alex ROSS





"There were  
voices...  
and thunderings,  
and lightnings..."

"...and an  
earthquake."

This was my  
dream...





...no more.





IT'S HAPPENING...  
JUST AS THE VISIONS  
FORETOLD!

SUPERMAN  
CAME TOO LATE!  
WAR HAS  
BEGIN!

DO  
SOMETHING!  
FOR THE LOVE  
OF GOD--

--MAKE IT  
STOP!!



I CANNOT,  
I CAN TAKE NO ACTION  
... NOT YET.

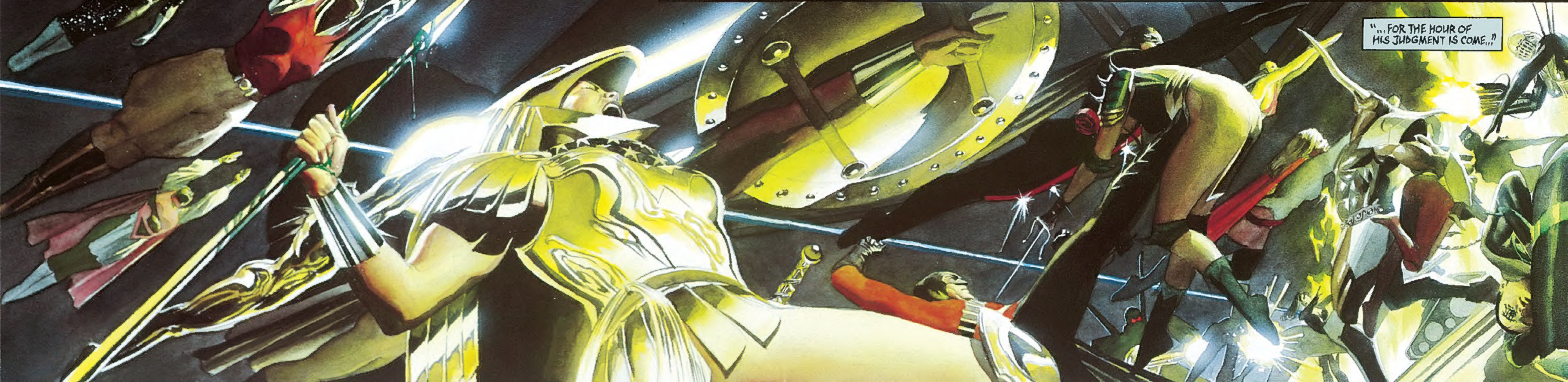
WHY NOT?  
WHAT IN GOD'S  
NAME HAS TO  
HAPPEN?

HOW MUCH  
TIME MUST  
PASS?




THERE WILL BE  
A RECKONING, NORMAN  
MCCAY, BE PREPARED.

AS THE SCRIPTURES  
SAY... "FEAR GOD, AND  
GIVE GLORY TO HIM..."



"...FOR THE HOUR OF  
HIS JUDGMENT IS COME..."





Is that the only  
reason I am here?  
To watch some  
hideous judgment?

Superman and  
I share the same  
terror.

His face is a mask of  
confusion. He cannot  
comprehend how things  
came to this. Once upon  
a time, Captain Marvel  
was one of his mightiest  
allies.

DAMN IT,  
MARVEL! SNAP OUT  
OF IT! YOU CAN'T  
DO THIS!

TOO MUCH  
IS HAPPENING  
TOO FAST!

WE HAVE  
TO WORK  
TOGETH--

Now, whatever wisdom  
he once possessed has  
been dulled by Luthor's  
brainwashing...

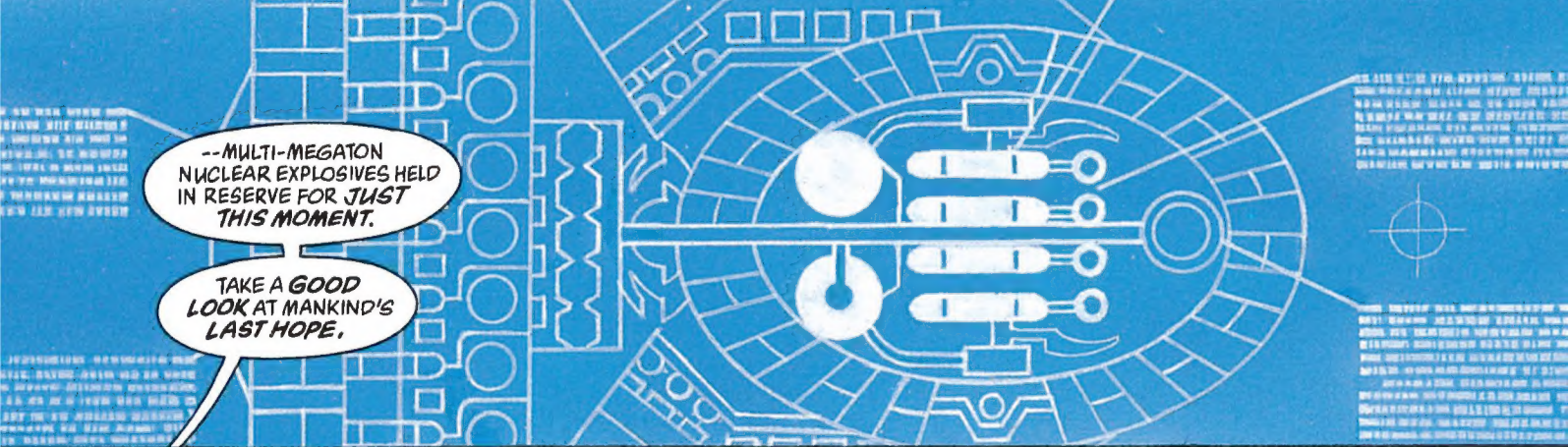
...making the Captain a  
soldier of chaos-- the one  
warrior who can counter  
Superman's every move...

...and prevent him from  
containing the battle.

Superman believes himself  
to be the **only** force on  
Earth powerful enough to  
end the superhuman war.

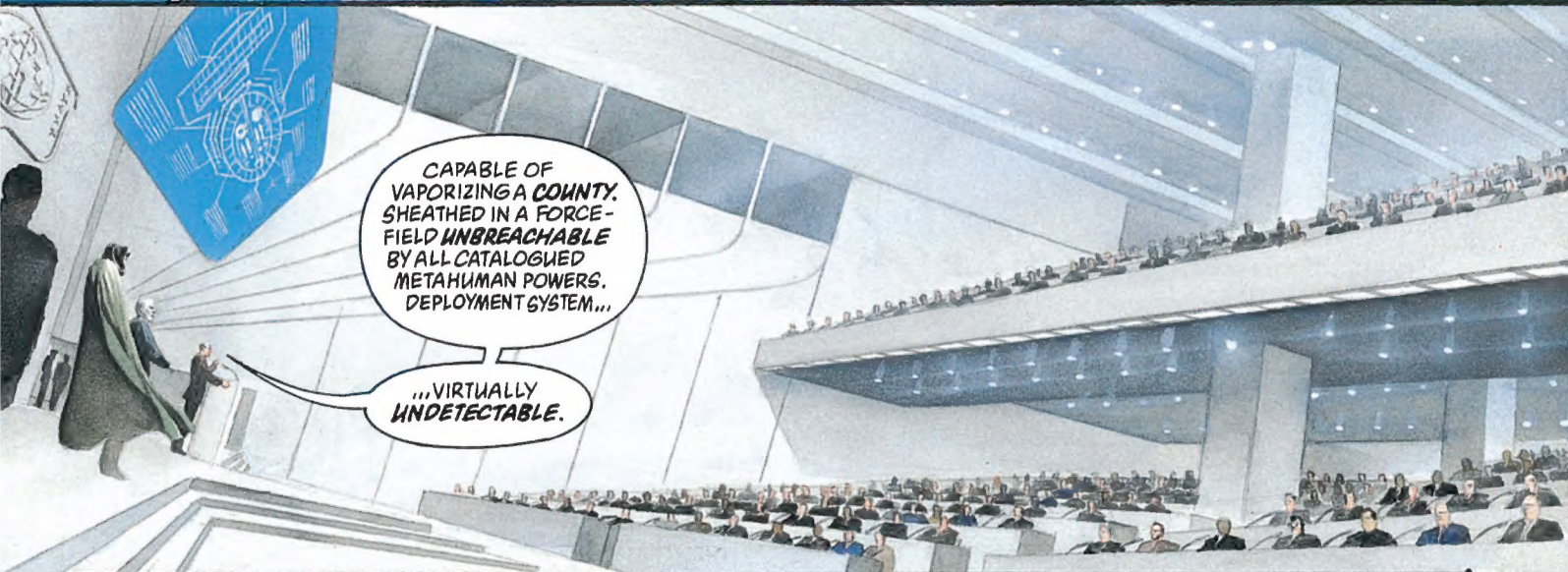
He is **wrong**.





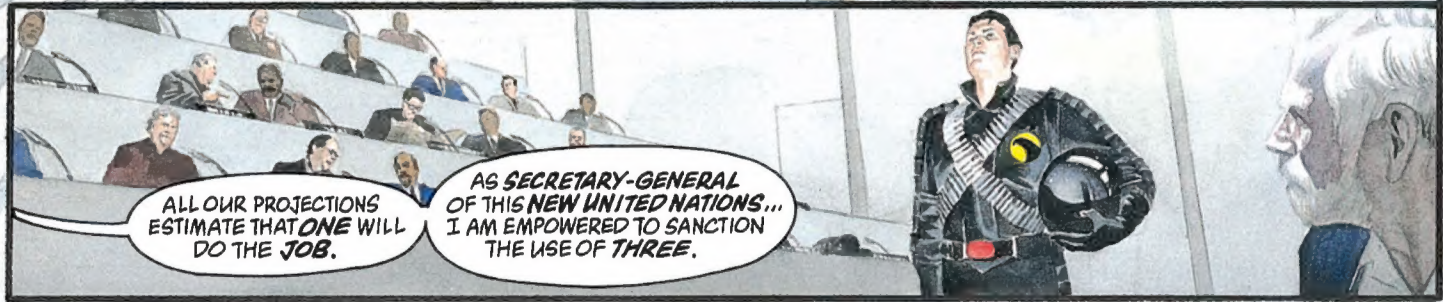
--MULTI-MEGATON  
NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES HELD  
IN RESERVE FOR JUST  
THIS MOMENT.

TAKE A GOOD  
LOOK AT MANKIND'S  
LAST HOPE.



CAPABLE OF  
VAPORIZING A COUNTRY.  
SHEATHED IN A FORCE-  
FIELD **UNBREACHABLE**  
BY ALL CATALOGUED  
METAHUMAN POWERS.  
DEPLOYMENT SYSTEM...

...VIRTUALLY  
**UNDETECTABLE.**



ALL OUR PROJECTIONS  
ESTIMATE THAT **ONE** WILL  
DO THE **JOB.**

AS **SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
OF THIS **NEW UNITED NATIONS...**  
I AM EMPOWERED TO SANCTION  
THE USE OF **THREE.**

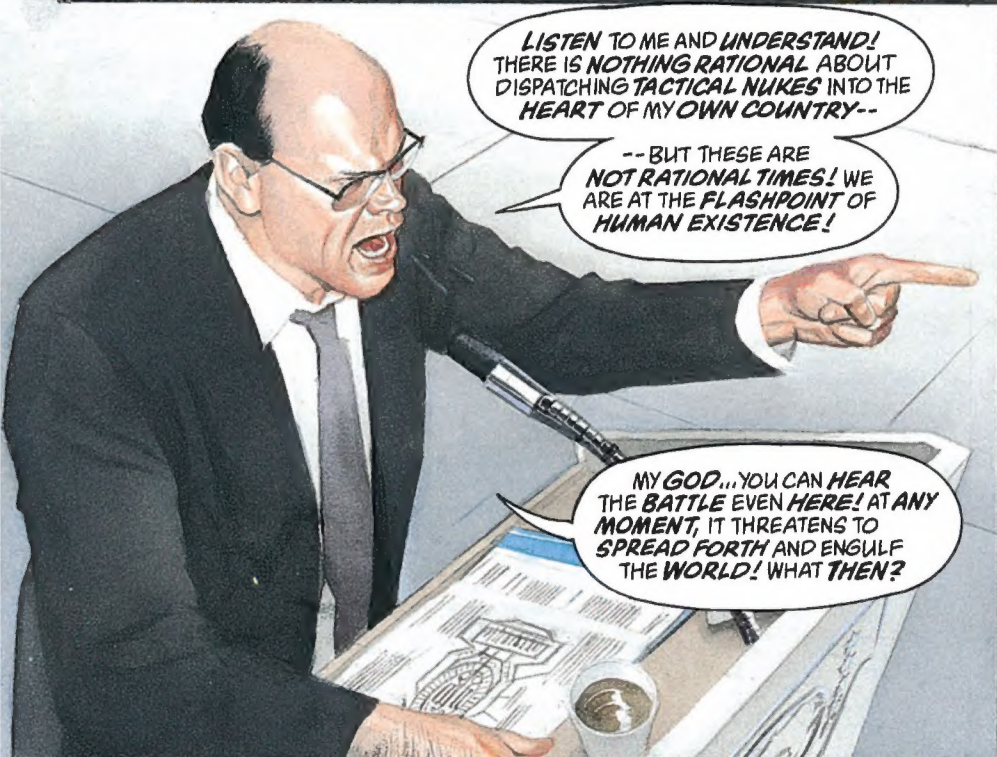


**THREE?**  
**UNACCEPT-**  
**ABLE!**

SURELY  
KILL CIVILIANS,  
**TOO**

RISK OF  
INFLAMING

**INSIST**  
ON **SOME**  
OTHER WAY  
OF



**LISTEN TO ME AND UNDERSTAND!**  
THERE IS **NOTHING RATIONAL** ABOUT  
DISPATCHING **TACTICAL NUKES** INTO THE  
HEART OF MY OWN COUNTRY--

-- BUT THESE ARE  
**NOT RATIONAL TIMES!** WE  
ARE AT THE **FLASHPOINT** OF  
HUMAN EXISTENCE!

MY **GOD...** YOU CAN **HEAR**  
THE **BATTLE** EVEN **HERE!** AT ANY  
MOMENT, IT THREATENS TO  
SPREAD FORTH AND ENGULF  
THE **WORLD!** WHAT **THEN?**



WHAT  
**THEN?**





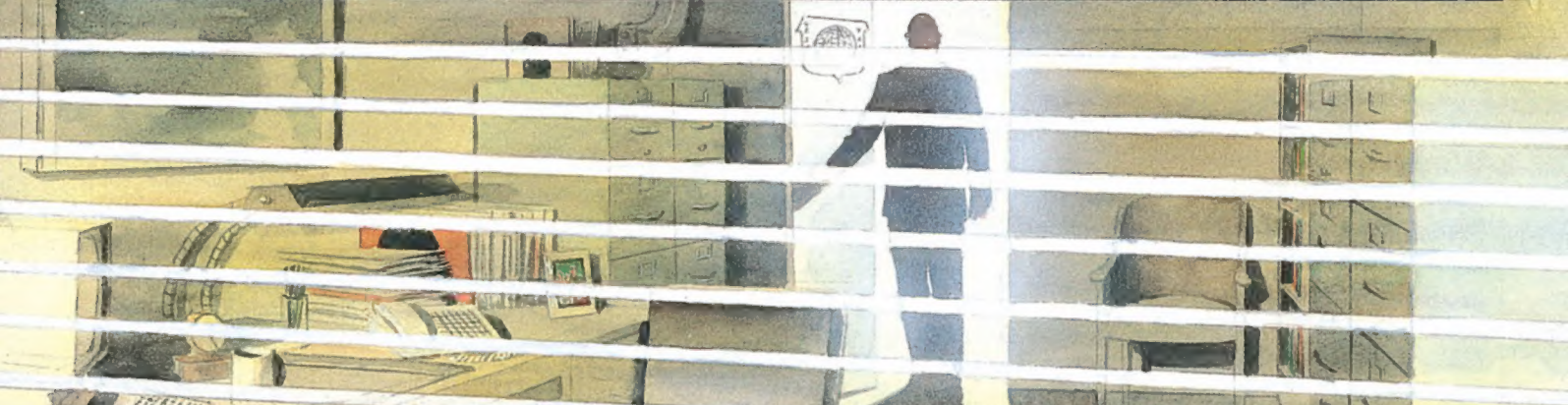
THE ONLY WAY  
TO **ENSURE** THAT  
FUTURE GENERATIONS  
**REMEMBER** THIS AS  
HUMANITY'S **FINAL**  
**OPTION--**

-- IS TO ENSURE  
THAT THERE WILL **BE**  
FUTURE GENERATIONS  
AFTER TODAY.



LET US  
**STRIKE** WHILE  
WE **STILL**  
**CAN.**

**GODSPEED.**







Even in the brightest day, the dust of battle eclipses the sun itself.

The prisoners released by Marvel's thunderbolts strike out blindly.

Wonder Woman's troops return force in kind.



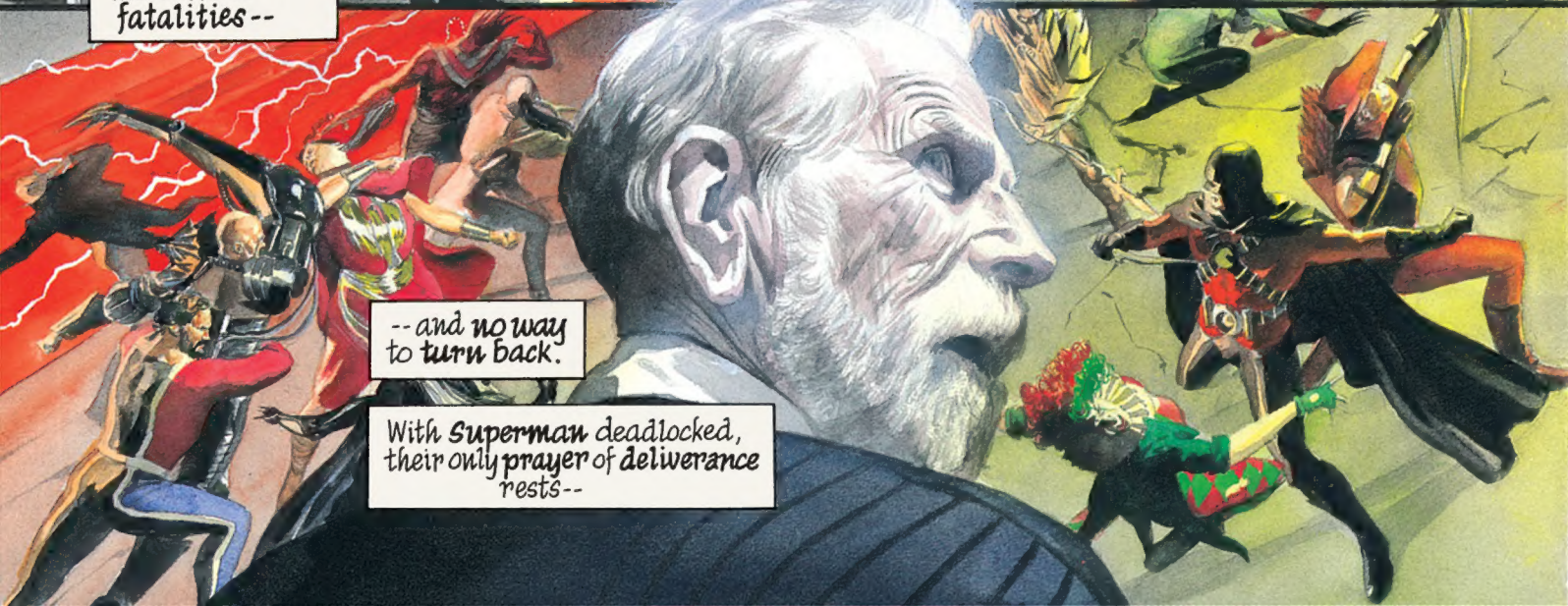
Both sides fight with abandon. Whatever heroic mores of combat might once have ruled them become nostalgic memories.



This isn't a fight that will eventually die down.

This is a forest fire that's just begun...a war that may well end the world.

Any instant now, there will be fatalities--



-- and no way to turn back.

With Superman deadlocked, their only prayer of deliverance rests--



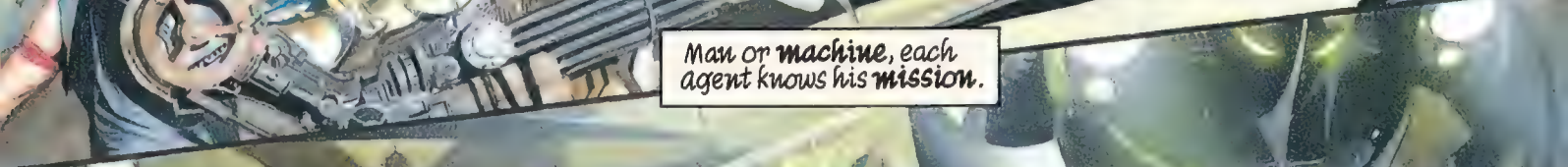


-- with a force  
from on high.





Batman's legion  
soars in like a  
silent cavalry.



Man or machine, each  
agent knows his mission.



Stem the loss  
of life.



Prevent the riot  
while there's still time  
to exert control.



The sheer force of  
Batman's presence  
kindles a desperate  
ember of hope--



--too late.

Du wurst  
wie eine wanze  
zerquetscht!!

ach...

DIANA...?

DID YOU  
SEE THAT? SHE  
KILLED HIM!  
SHE KILLED VON  
BACH!

**GET  
HER!**

HE LEFT ME  
NO CHOICE.  
THEY BEGAN  
THIS. I WILL  
FINISH IT.





AND WE WILL FINISH  
IT WITHOUT YOU, BRUCE!  
YOUR PEOPLE ARE OUT  
OF THEIR LEAGUE!

WHY? BECAUSE  
WE'RE HERE TO **SAVE**  
LIVES RATHER THAN  
**TAKE** THEM?

WE'RE HERE TO  
**FORCE PEACE!** WE'RE  
LEFT WITH **NO CHOICE!**  
IF YOU **STAND** IN THE  
WAY-- I WILL **RE-**  
MOVE YOU!

DON'T TELL ME  
YOU STILL **SUBSCRIBE**  
TO THAT PARADOX.

"FORCE PEACE,"  
THE **AMAZON**  
TENET.

"SPREAD LOVE AND  
UNDERSTANDING...BUT  
DON'T BE AFRAID TO  
**BLOODY** YOUR KNUCKLES  
DOING IT."

I'VE HEARD **RUMORS**  
THAT THE AMAZONS **RELIEVED**  
YOU OF YOUR **DUTIES** AND  
HERITAGE FOR NOT BEING  
STRIDENT ENOUGH.


FACE  
THE **TRUTH**,  
DIANA...

...YOU WON'T WIN  
BACK YOUR ROYAL  
STATION BY **OVER-**  
COMPENSATING.

YOU  
ARISTOCRATIC  
**BASTARD!**

HOW DARE YOU  
**CONDEMN ME?**





I WILL  
NOT BE JUDGED  
BY YOU!

"DO YOU  
HEAR ME?"

"DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND?"

AFTER ALL THESE  
YEARS, YOU HAVE THE  
NERVE TO SWAGGER  
OUT OF YOUR CAVE  
AND EXPECT EVERYONE  
TO BOW BEFORE YOUR  
PRECIOUS WISDOM!

WELL, IT'S  
TOO LATE FOR  
THAT, BRUCE!



WE TRIED  
TO HOLD ORDER--  
BUT IT'S TOO FAR  
GONE! OUR ONLY  
OPTION NOW IS  
WAR!



OUR  
ONLY ANSWER  
IS--





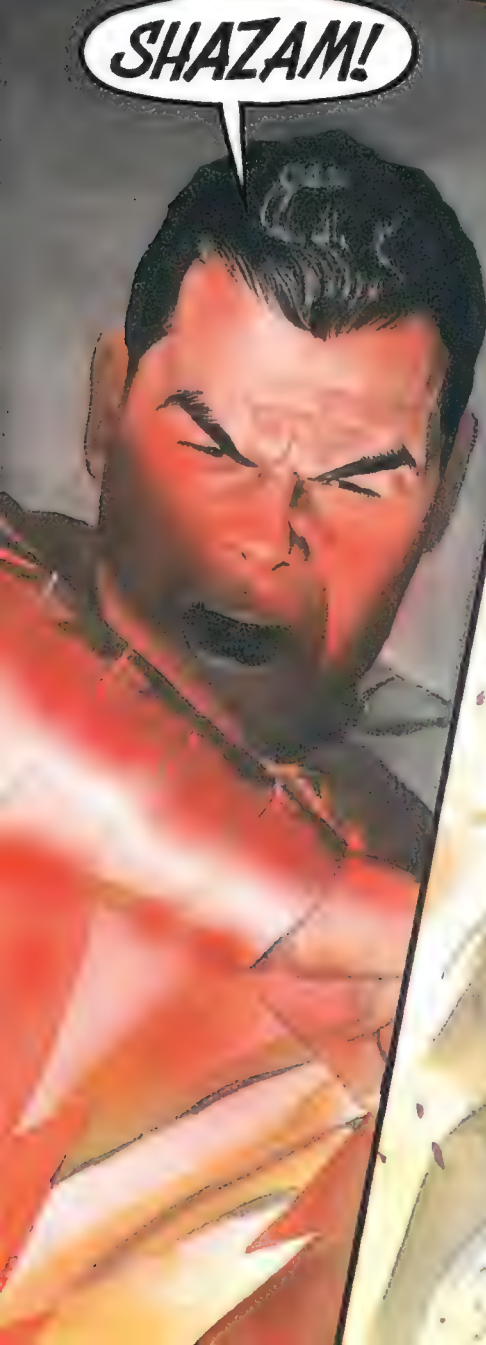


MARVEL! IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN--  
WIPE THAT EMPTY SMILE  
OFF YOUR FACE!

YOU WERE A  
FRIEND ONCE! HOW  
CAN YOU DO THIS?  
HOW?

LOOK AT THE  
HORROR YOU'VE  
LET LOOSE!

DAMN IT--  
SAY SOMETHING FOR  
YOURSELF!



SHAZAM!



BOOM!



SHAZAM.



BOOM!



BOOM!



SHAZAM.



SHAZAM.





OPEN YOUR EYES,  
DIANA. YOUR ANSWER  
FLIES ON METAL  
WINGS.

THOSE ARE **NUCLEAR  
CARRIERS...** THE ULTIMATE  
WARBRINGERS.

OUR WAR IS NOT  
ONE ACT OF VIOLENCE... AT  
THE COST OF SOME LIVES.

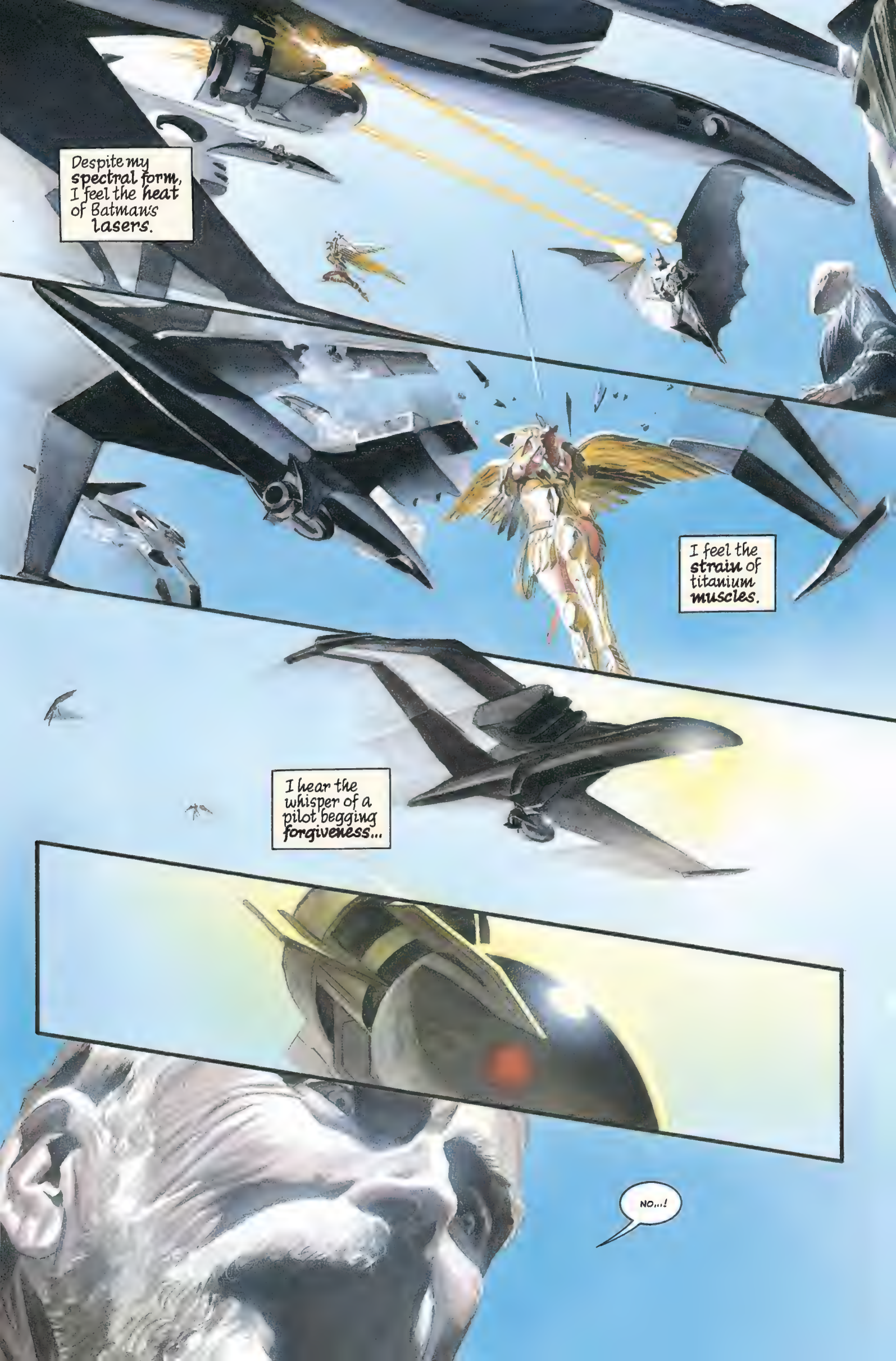
OUR WAR ENDS IN  
EXTINCTION.

IF YOU'RE  
THAT DEVOTED TO  
THE AMAZON  
HONOR...

... IF YOUR SOUL  
GENUINELY LONGS  
FOR ATONEMENT  
ON AMAZONIAN  
TERMS...

... THEN LET'S  
KEEP FIGHTING... AND  
LET THE PLANES DO  
THEIR WORK.



An aerial battle scene featuring Spectre, a winged figure with a golden and red suit, in the center. He is surrounded by several black fighter jets. One jet at the top left is firing a bright yellow laser beam towards Spectre. Another jet on the right is also firing a yellow beam. A third jet is visible on the left, and a fourth is at the bottom. The background is a clear blue sky. Spectre's wings are spread wide, and he appears to be in a defensive or evasive position. The jets are sleek and modern, with various sensors and weapons visible.

Despite my spectral form, I feel the heat of Batman's lasers.

I feel the strain of titanium muscles.

I hear the whisper of a pilot begging forgiveness...

A close-up, low-angle shot of Spectre's face. He is looking upwards with a determined and intense expression. His eyes are wide, and his mouth is slightly open. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and deep shadows. The background is a bright, hazy yellow, suggesting a bright sky or a powerful light source. The image has a comic book style, with bold lines and vibrant colors.

NO...!



...over the sound of  
distant thunder.

BOOM!

ENOUGH...!

SHAZAM!


BOOM!






ENOUGH!


For one frozen instant, the storm clears.




Fingers that can fuse coal into diamond crawl across human bone.



And in the hush, ears that can hear a cell divide...



...pick out with chilling ease the scream of human rage.



A wave of x-rays confirms the bomb's potency. A telescopic glance calculates the seconds before impact. He must act... now.



IT IS TIME.



WHAT?



JUDGMENT  
HAS COME,  
NORMAN MCCAY.  
THE HOUR  
TOLLS.

OUR  
ENTIRE JOURNEY  
HAS BROUGHT US  
TO THIS MOMENT.

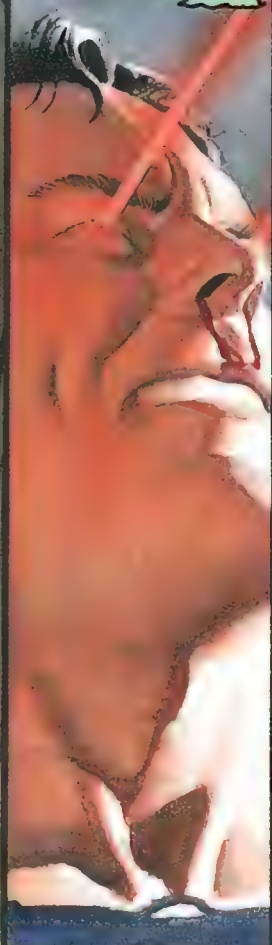
BUT--THE  
BOMB!

THE  
BOMB--

--WILL DE-  
TERMINE THE  
FATE OF THE  
WORLD.

IF IT DROPS, THE  
SUPERHUMANS WILL  
SURELY DIE-- BUT  
HUMANITY WILL BE  
SPARED THEIR  
VIOLENCE.

IF NOT, THEY  
WILL LIVE ON--TO  
FIGHT A BATTLE  
THAT WILL, IN TIME,  
SWALLOW THE  
EARTH.



IN EITHER  
CASE, WE FACE THE  
EVIL OF GENOCIDE.  
AND MY TASK IS TO  
FINISH THOSE  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR EVIL.

BUT WHO SHALL BE  
HELD ACCOUNTABLE?  
WHOSE SIN IS THIS?  
THE HUMANS'...OR THE  
SUPERHUMANS'?


TELL ME,  
NORMAN.

JUDGE.



ME...?





YOURS IS  
THE SOUL THAT  
GHIDES ME.



JUDGE.

CAREFULLY.

HOW CAN  
I...?

THERE IS NO  
"EVIL" HERE!  
THERE IS TRAGEDY  
AND BEDLAM  
AND--



I--

--I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT TO  
DO!

YOU CAN SEE  
THAT, CAN'T YOU?  
EVERY CHOICE I'VE  
MADE SO FAR HAS  
BROUGHT US HERE  
--HAS BEEN  
WRONG!

Superman's palm  
spasms around  
Batson's jaw...



...and Batson  
whimpers.

The clock  
is racing.

Only moments  
remain before  
the blast...



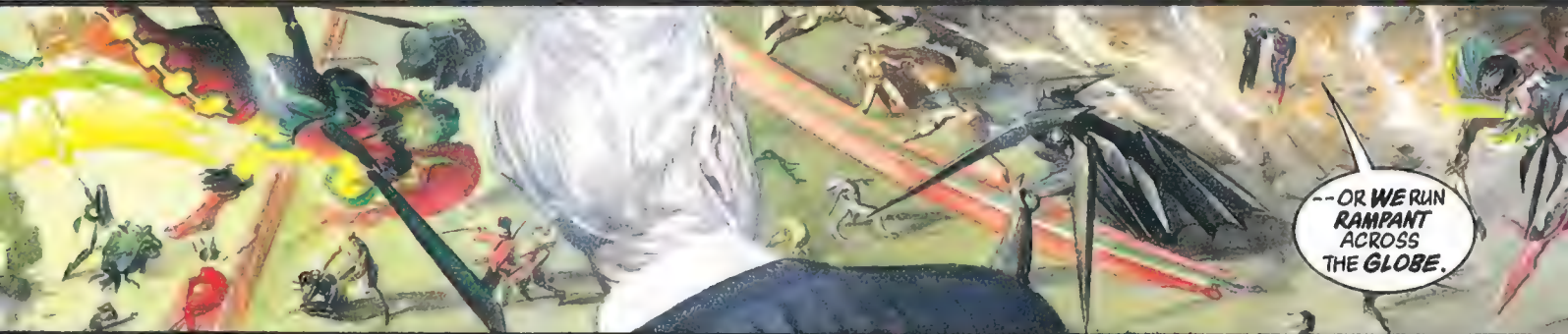
...SO LISTEN TO  
ME, BILLY. LISTEN HARDER  
THAN YOU EVER HAVE  
BEFORE.





LOOK AROUND US. LOOK WHAT WE'VE COME TO.

THERE'S A BOMB FALLING. EITHER IT KILLS US--



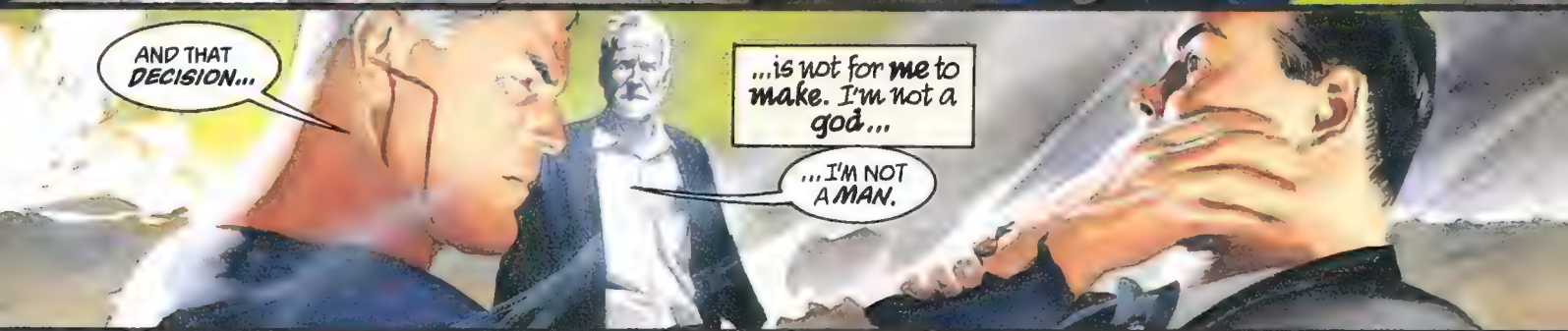
-- OR WE RUN RAMPANT ACROSS THE GLOBE.



I CAN STILL STOP THE BOMB, BILL. THAT MUCH I'M SURE OF.

WHAT I DON'T KNOW IS WHETHER I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO.

Superhumans or mankind... one will pay the ultimate price.



AND THAT DECISION...

...is not for me to make. I'm not a god...

...I'M NOT A MAN.



BUT YOU, BILLY... YOU'RE BOTH.





MORE THAN ANYONE WHO EVER EXISTED, YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LIVE IN BOTH WORLDS.

ONLY YOU CAN WEIGH THEIR WORTH EQUALLY.

FIGHT THE BRAINWASHING, BILLY. YOU CAN LET ME GO...



...OR WITH A WORD...YOU CAN STOP ME.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE CHOICE THAT CAN BE MADE BY YOU ALONE?

His tears answer for him.

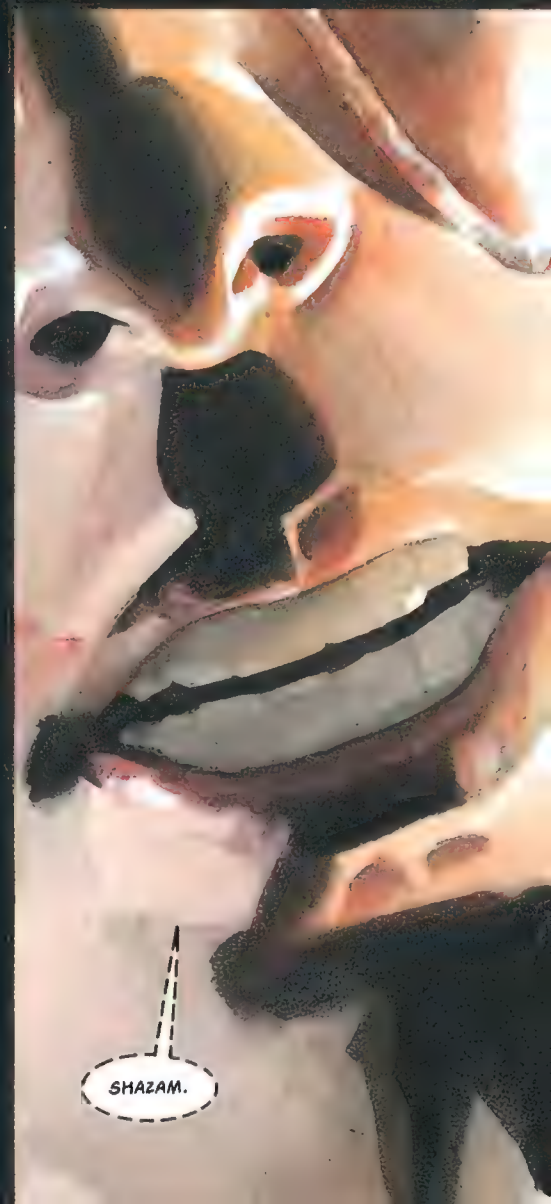


THEN DECIDE.



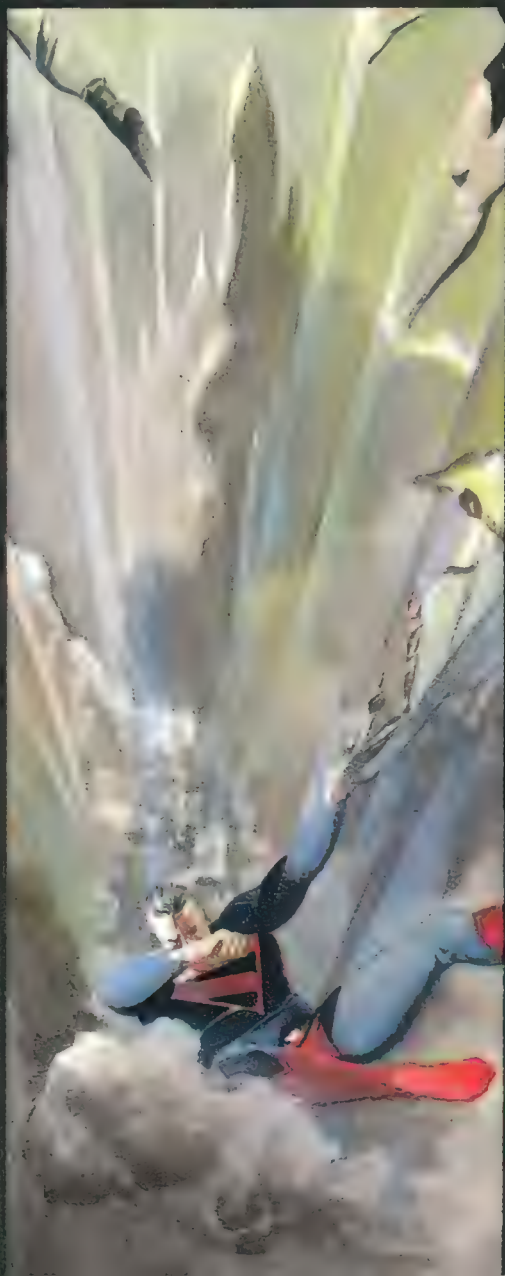
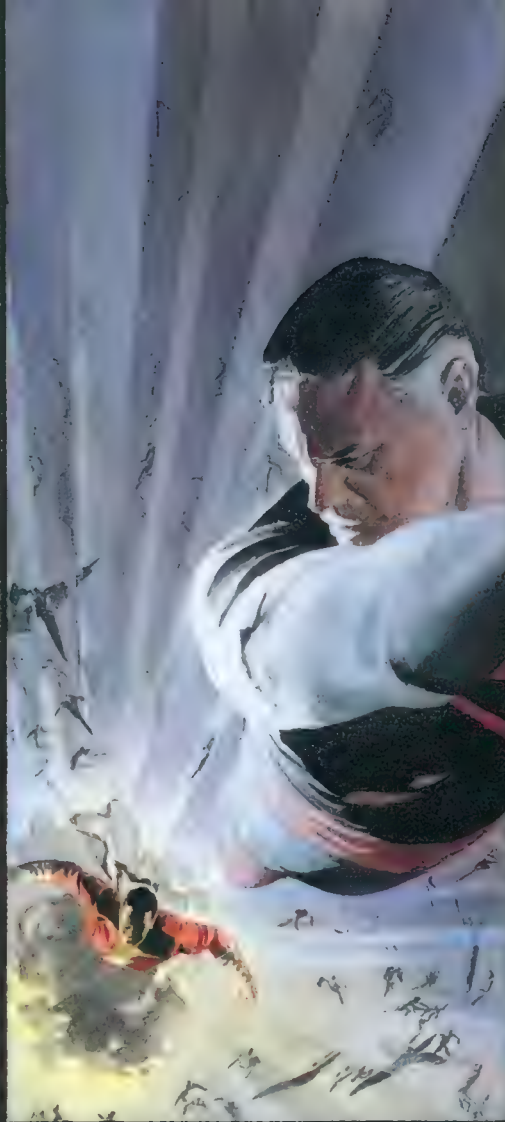
DECIDE THE WORLD.

And when he cries...



SHAZAM.













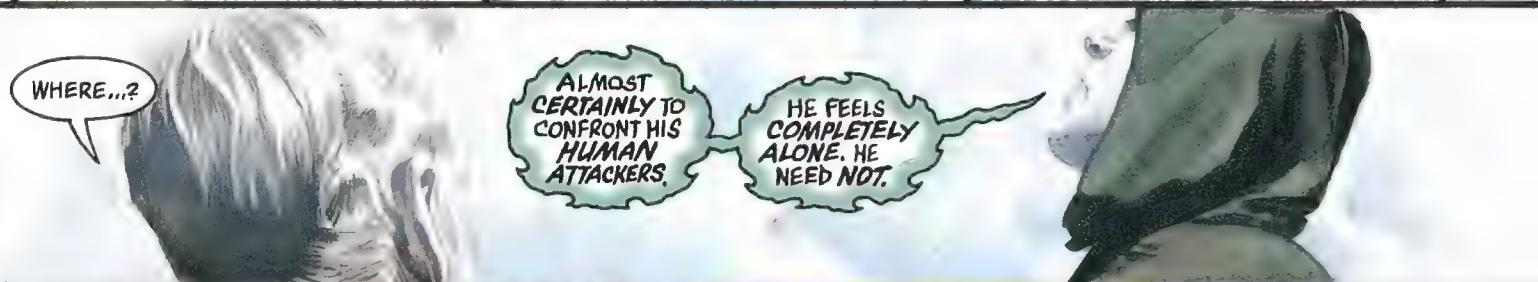
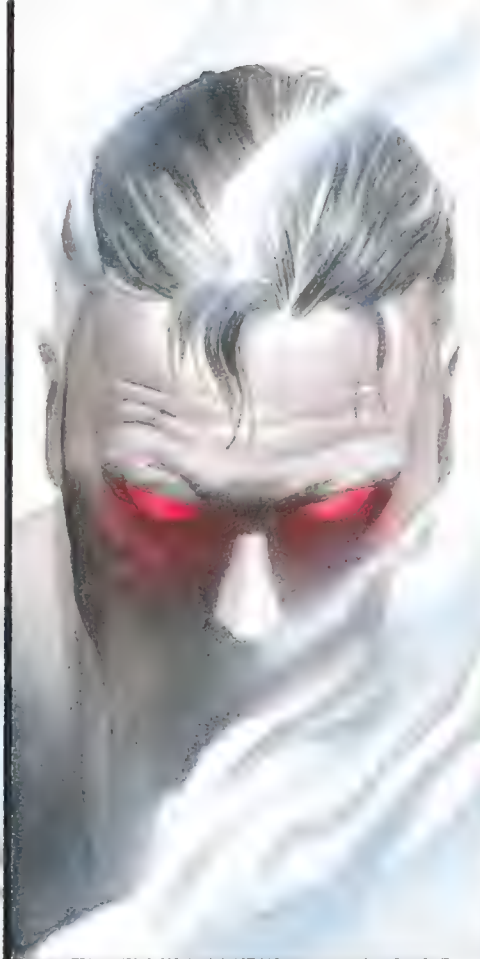












WHERE...?

ALMOST CERTAINLY TO CONFRONT HIS HUMAN ATTACKERS.

HE FEELS COMPLETELY ALONE. HE NEED NOT.

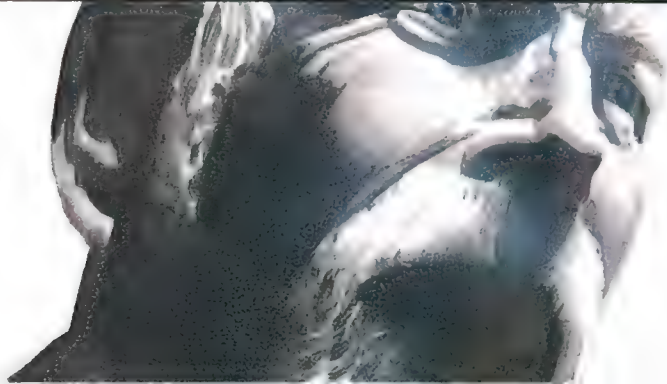


THERE WERE SURVIVORS. THEY ARE FEWER IN NUMBER, AND THEIR PAIN IS GREAT... BUT THEIR WAR IS OVER.



JUDGMENT HAS BEEN PASSED. I AM NO LONGER NEEDED.

FAREWELL, NORMAN MCCAY.



FAREWELL?

FAREWELL?





YOU THINK YOU  
BROUGHT ME ALL THIS  
WAY JUST TO WATCH  
PEOPLE *DIE*?

THINK  
AGAIN!



YOU WANT TO  
*CONFRONT* EVIL?  
THEN GET US THE  
HELL TO THE U.N.  
...*NOW!*

YOU *SAW*  
SUPERMAN! YOU  
*SAW* AN ANGER  
THAT COULD *TWIST*  
STEEL!



IF WHAT  
HAPPENS *NEXT*  
HAPPENS THE ONLY  
WAY IT *CAN*...AND  
YOU LET IT...

"...*THAT IS EVIL.*"



GOD IN  
HEAVEN--*RUN!*  
HE'S GONE  
*BERSERK!*





LOOK  
OUT!

THE **DOORS!**  
HE'S **WELDED THE  
DOORS!**

NANDIYAN NA ANG  
SIVA ULO! PAPATAYIN  
NIYA ULO!

**COUREZ!**  
COUREZ POUR VOS  
VIES!

ΘΕΕ ΜΟΥ!  
ΘΑ ΜΑΣ ΣΚΟΤΩΚΕΙ  
ΟΛΟΥΣ!

MY  
GOD...

HE'S  
BRINGING  
THE **ROOF DOWN!**  
HE'LL KILL THEM  
**ALL!**

SOMEBODY'S  
GOT TO **DO**  
SOMETHING!

AFTER **TEN YEARS**,  
HE HAS FINALLY LET FREE  
A WRATH THAT WOULD  
COWER **SATAN HIM-**  
**SELF.**

HOW CAN  
ANY MAN POSSIBLY  
CALM THE **FURY** HE  
FEELS TOWARDS HIS  
PERSECUTORS.

I CAN  
REACH **BEHIND**  
IT.

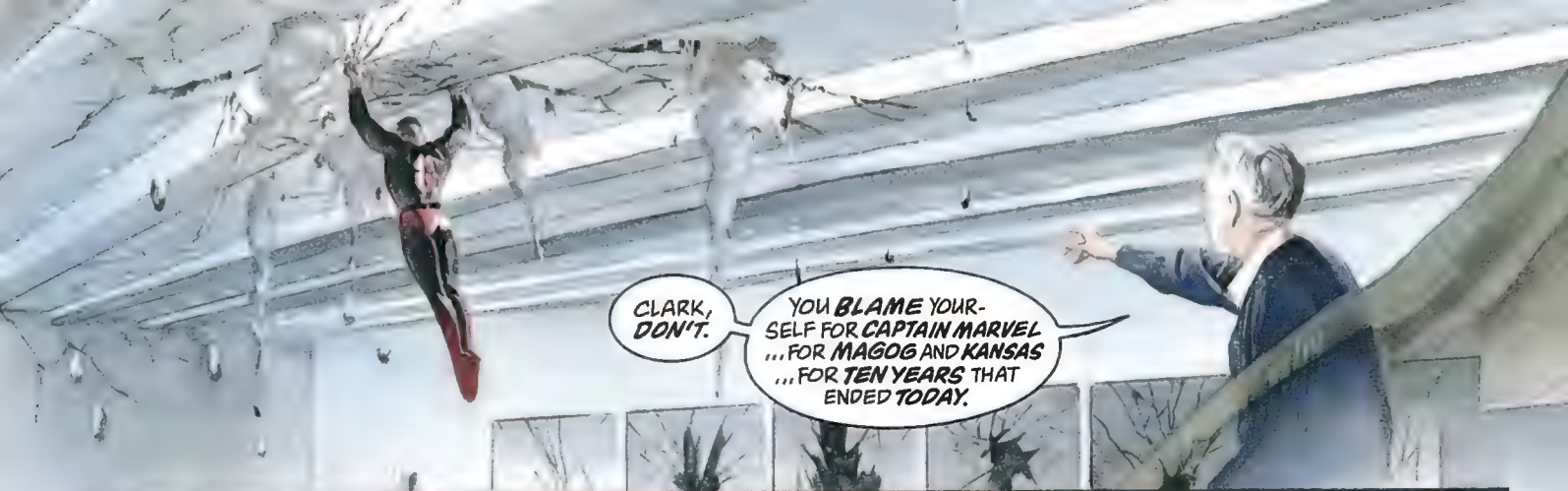
DO YOU **REALLY**  
THINK HE'S MAD AT  
**THEM?** HE'S RAGING  
AT **HIMSELF!**

LET ME  
TALK TO  
HIM.

**NOW.**

CLARK?





CLARK,  
DON'T.

YOU *BLAME* YOUR-  
SELF FOR *CAPTAIN MARVEL*  
... FOR *MAGOG* AND *KANSAS*  
... FOR *TEN YEARS* THAT  
ENDED *TODAY*.

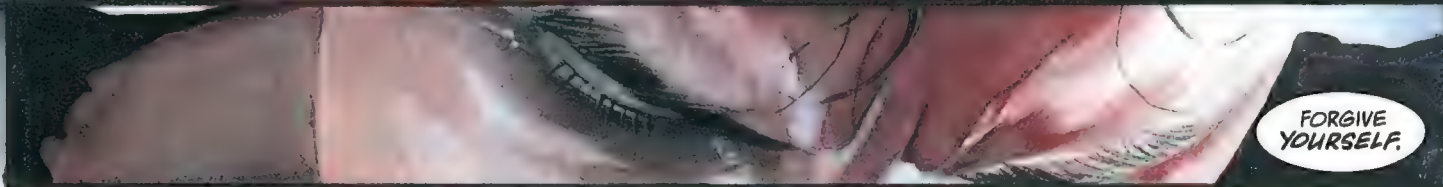
YES, YOU'RE ANGRY.  
BUT IN THAT ANGER,  
YOU'RE *FORGETTING*  
ONCE *MORE* WHAT  
HUMANS FEEL.



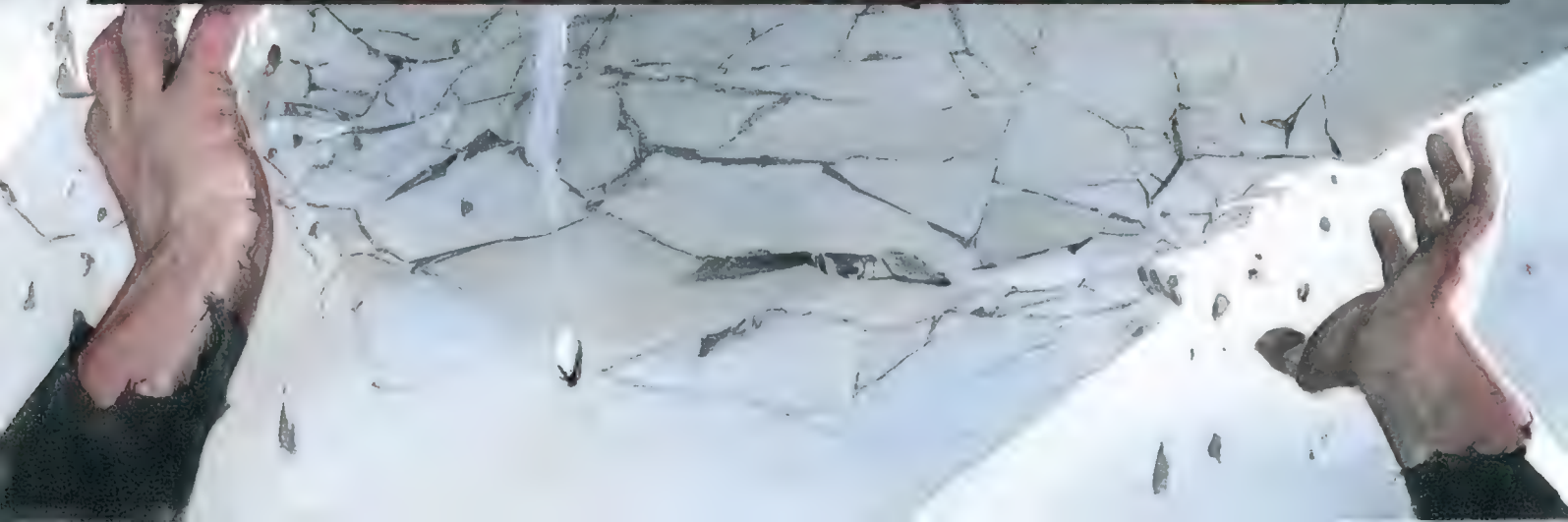
WHAT  
THEY  
FEAR.



THEY WON'T  
*FORGIVE* YOU FOR  
THIS, CLARK.



FORGIVE  
YOURSELF.





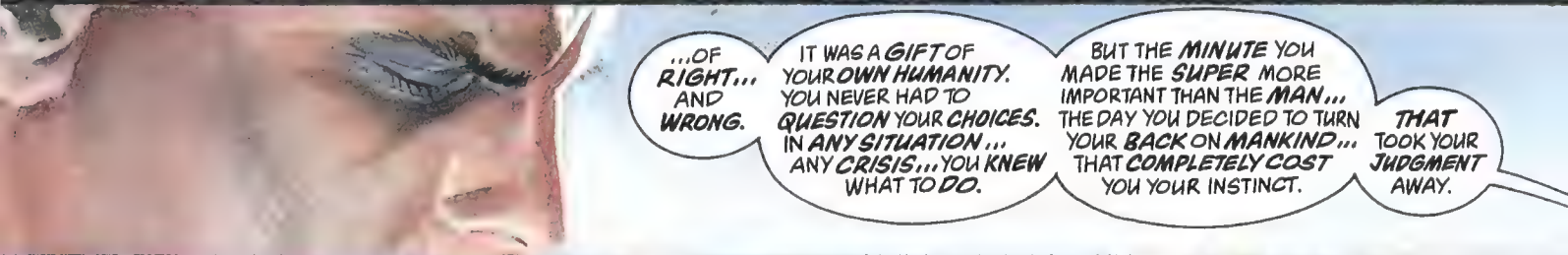


WHO ARE...

...WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TO BEAR WITNESS.

LISTEN TO ME, CLARK. OF ALL THE THINGS YOU CAN DO... ALL YOUR POWERS... THE GREATEST HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR INSTINCTIVE KNOWLEDGE...



...OF RIGHT... AND WRONG.

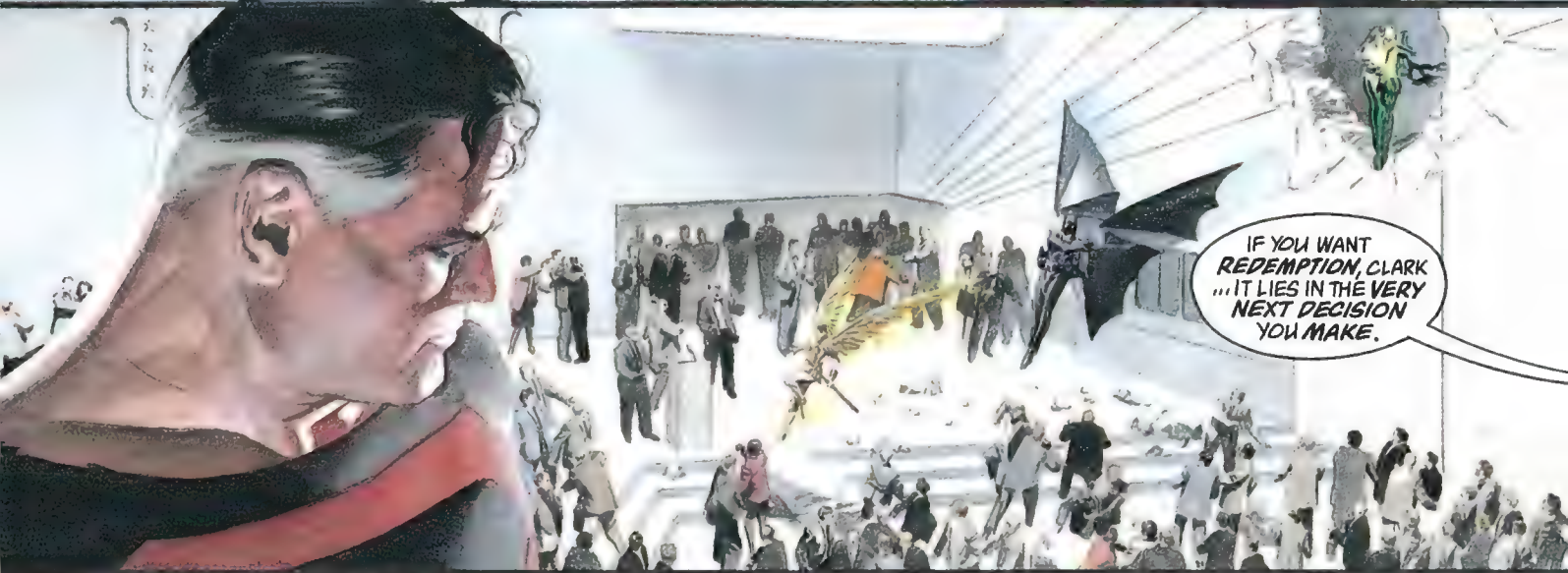
IT WAS A GIFT OF YOUR OWN HUMANITY. YOU NEVER HAD TO QUESTION YOUR CHOICES. IN ANY SITUATION... ANY CRISIS... YOU KNEW WHAT TO DO.

BUT THE MINUTE YOU MADE THE SUPER MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE MAN... THE DAY YOU DECIDED TO TURN YOUR BACK ON MANKIND... THAT COMPLETELY COST YOU YOUR INSTINCT.

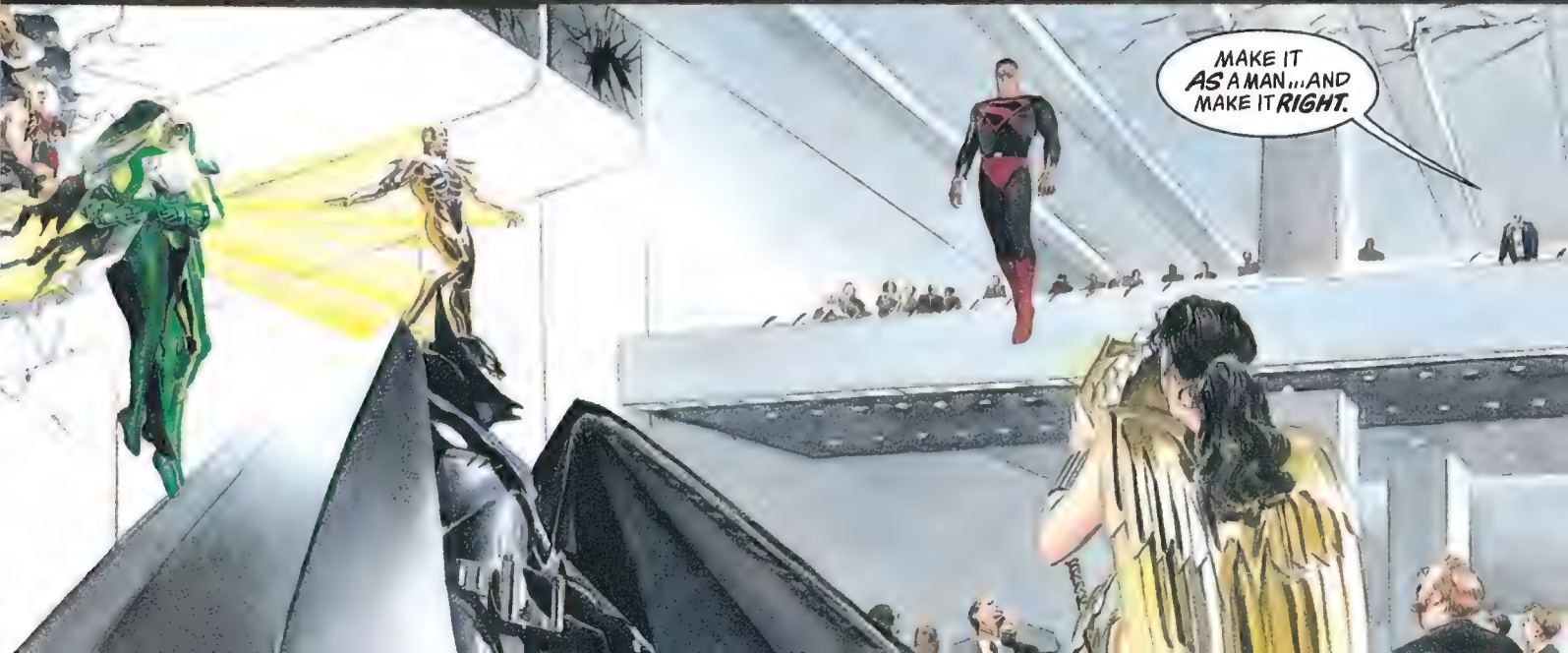
THAT TOOK YOUR JUDGMENT AWAY.



TAKE IT BACK.



IF YOU WANT REDEMPTION, CLARK... IT LIES IN THE VERY NEXT DECISION YOU MAKE.



MAKE IT AS A MAN... AND MAKE IT RIGHT.





SURVIVORS?  
HOW...?

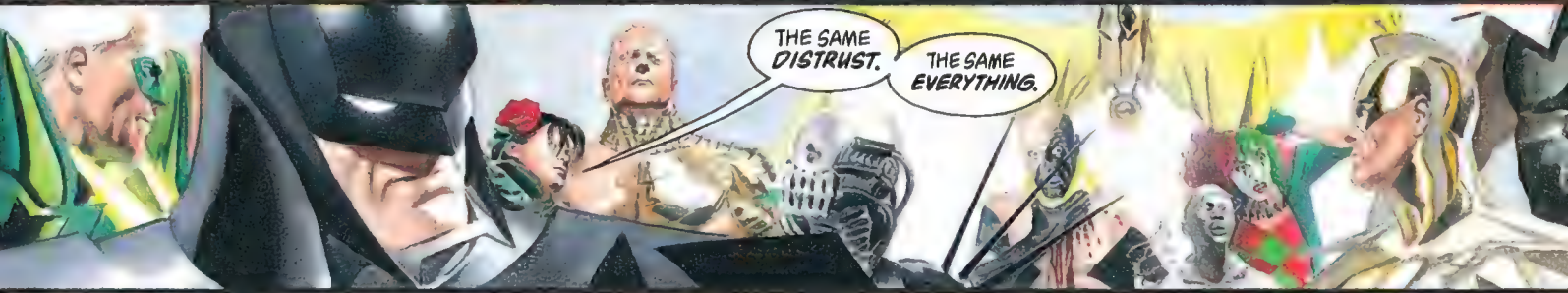
WITH HIS DYING  
BREATH, CAPTAIN  
MARVEL MANAGED TO  
DETONATE THE  
BOMB HIGH ABOVE  
GROUND ZERO.

THANKS TO THAT...  
AND TO THE COMBINED  
POWERS OF GREEN  
LANTERNS AND OTHERS  
...THERE WERE  
SURVIVORS.

HOW  
MANY  
...?

ENOUGH TO  
LEAVE US WITH THE  
SAME PROBLEM AS  
BEFORE.

THE SAME  
IMPASSE. THE SAME  
DANGERS.



THE SAME  
DISTRUST.

THE SAME  
EVERYTHING.



WHAT  
NOW?



NOW WE  
PUT THINGS  
RIGHT.

YEARS AGO, I LET  
THOSE I SWORE TO PROTECT  
DRIVE ME AWAY.

WE  
ALL  
DID.

AND THAT WAS  
THE DAY ALL OF THIS  
BEGAN.



WE... WE  
SAW YOU AS  
GODS...

AS WE SAW  
OURSELVES.

AND WE  
WERE BOTH  
WRONG.



BUT I NO  
LONGER CARE  
ABOUT THE MISTAKES  
OF YESTERDAY.

I CARE ABOUT  
COPING WITH TOMORROW...  
TOGETHER.





THE PROBLEMS WE FACE  
STILL EXIST, WE'RE NOT GOING  
TO SOLVE THEM **FOR** YOU...



...WE'RE GOING TO  
SOLVE THEM **WITH**  
YOU...



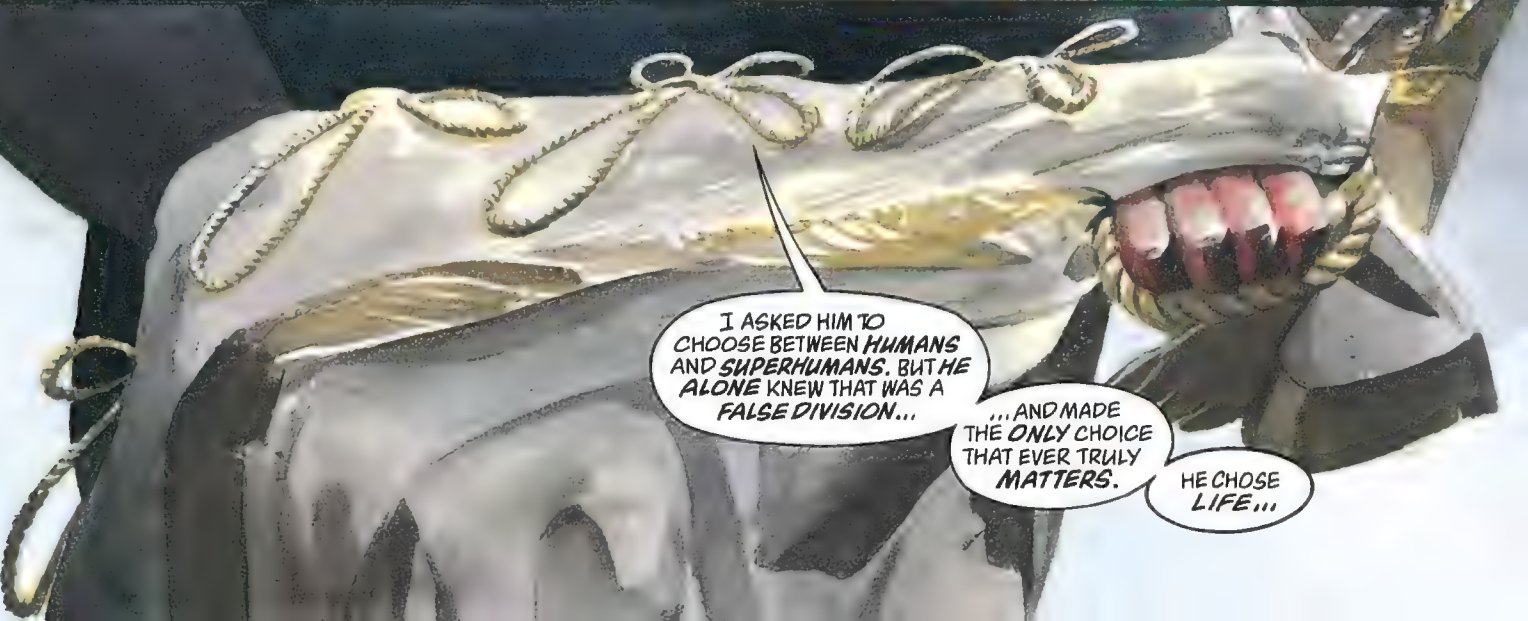
...NOT BY RULING  
**ABOVE** YOU... BUT BY  
LIVING **AMONG** YOU.



WE WILL NO LONGER **IMPOSE**  
OUR POWER ON HUMANITY. WE WILL  
**EARN YOUR TRUST...**



...USING THE  
WISDOM ONE MAN  
LEFT AS HIS  
LEGACY.



I ASKED HIM TO  
CHOOSE BETWEEN **HUMANS**  
AND **SUPERHUMANS**. BUT HE  
ALONE KNEW THAT WAS A  
FALSE DIVISION...

...AND MADE  
THE **ONLY** CHOICE  
THAT EVER TRULY  
MATTERS.

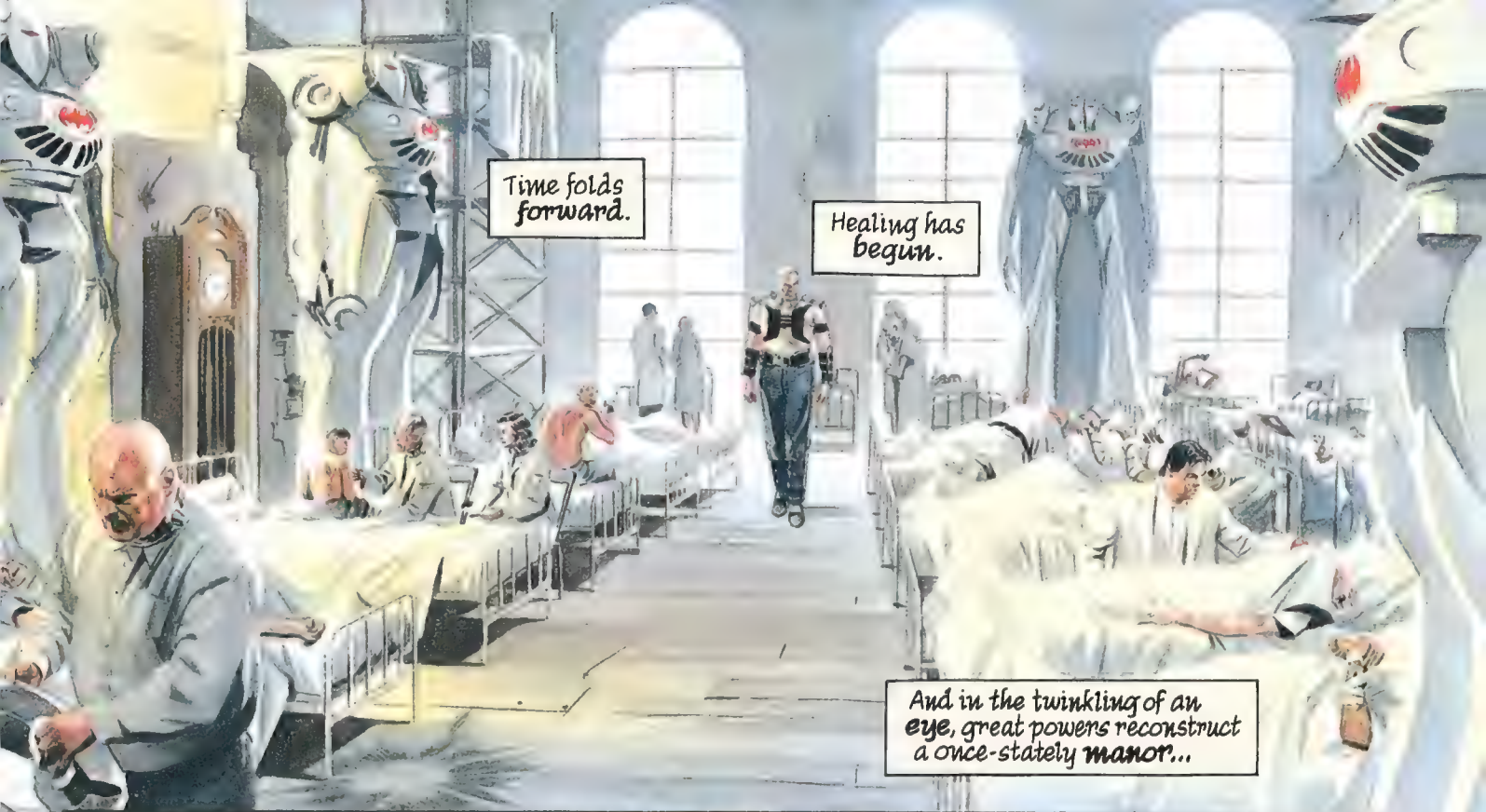
HE CHOSE  
LIFE...



"...IN THE HOPE THAT  
YOUR WORLD AND *OUR*  
WORLD COULD BE *ONE*  
WORLD ONCE AGAIN."



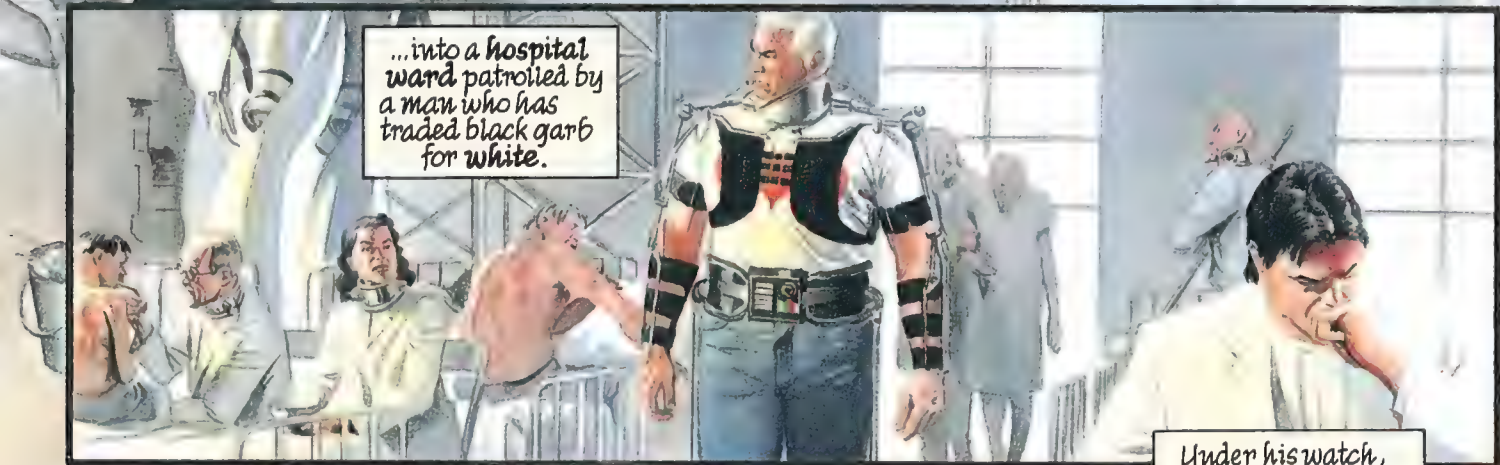




Time folds forward.

Healing has begun.

And in the twinkling of an eye, great powers reconstruct a once-stately manor...



...into a hospital ward patrolled by a man who has traded black garb for white.



Under his watch, survivors ravaged by the effects of the bomb are nurtured and cared for...

...while those who helped bring about the cataclysm...

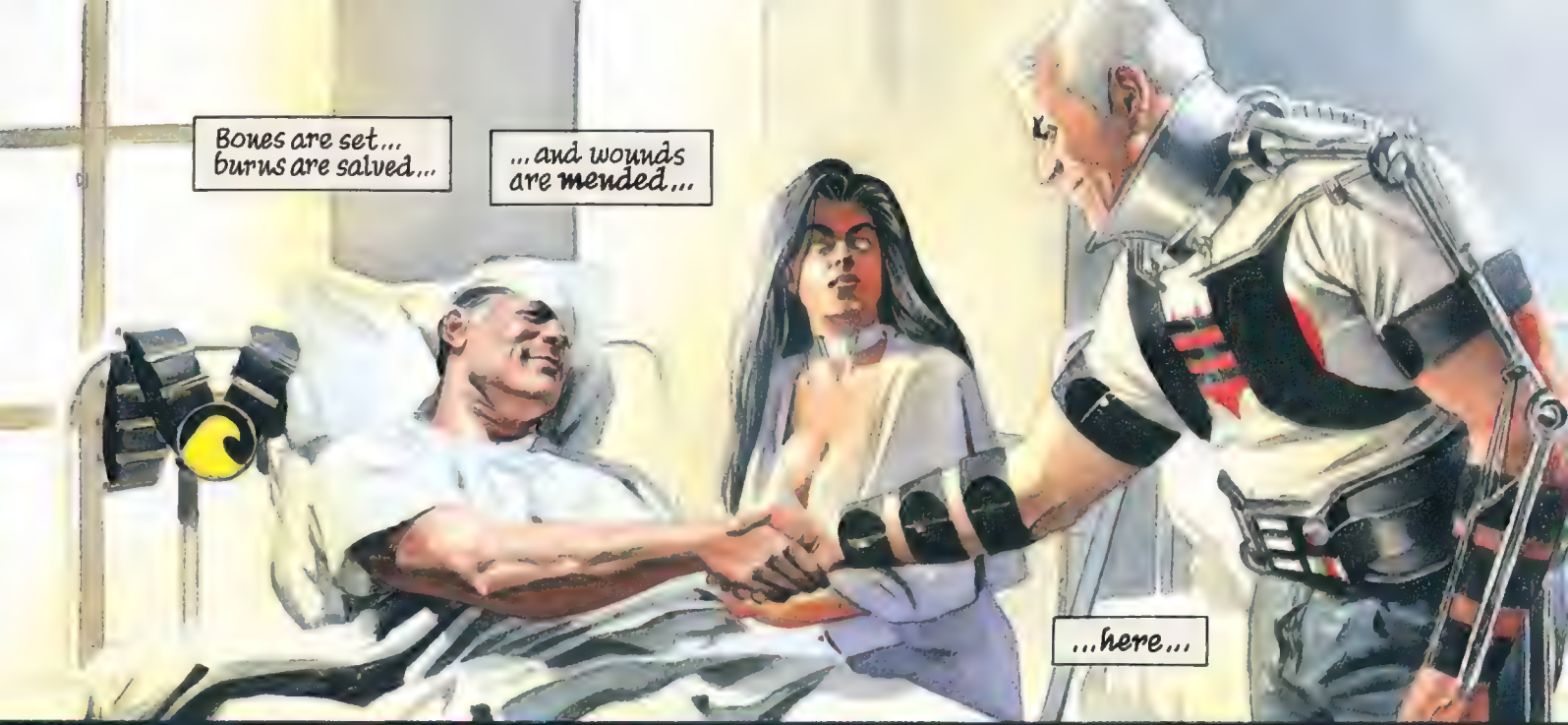


...suffer their own unique justice.

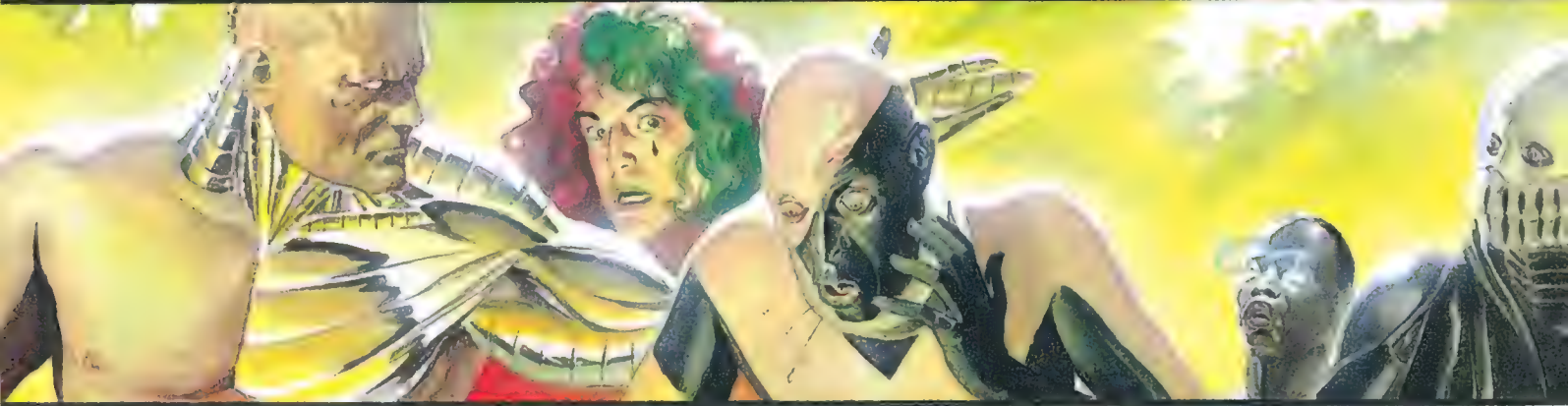
SHAZAM.

SHUT UP.









Through her courage, the princess is at last granted her crown. No longer does she see herself as a failed student.

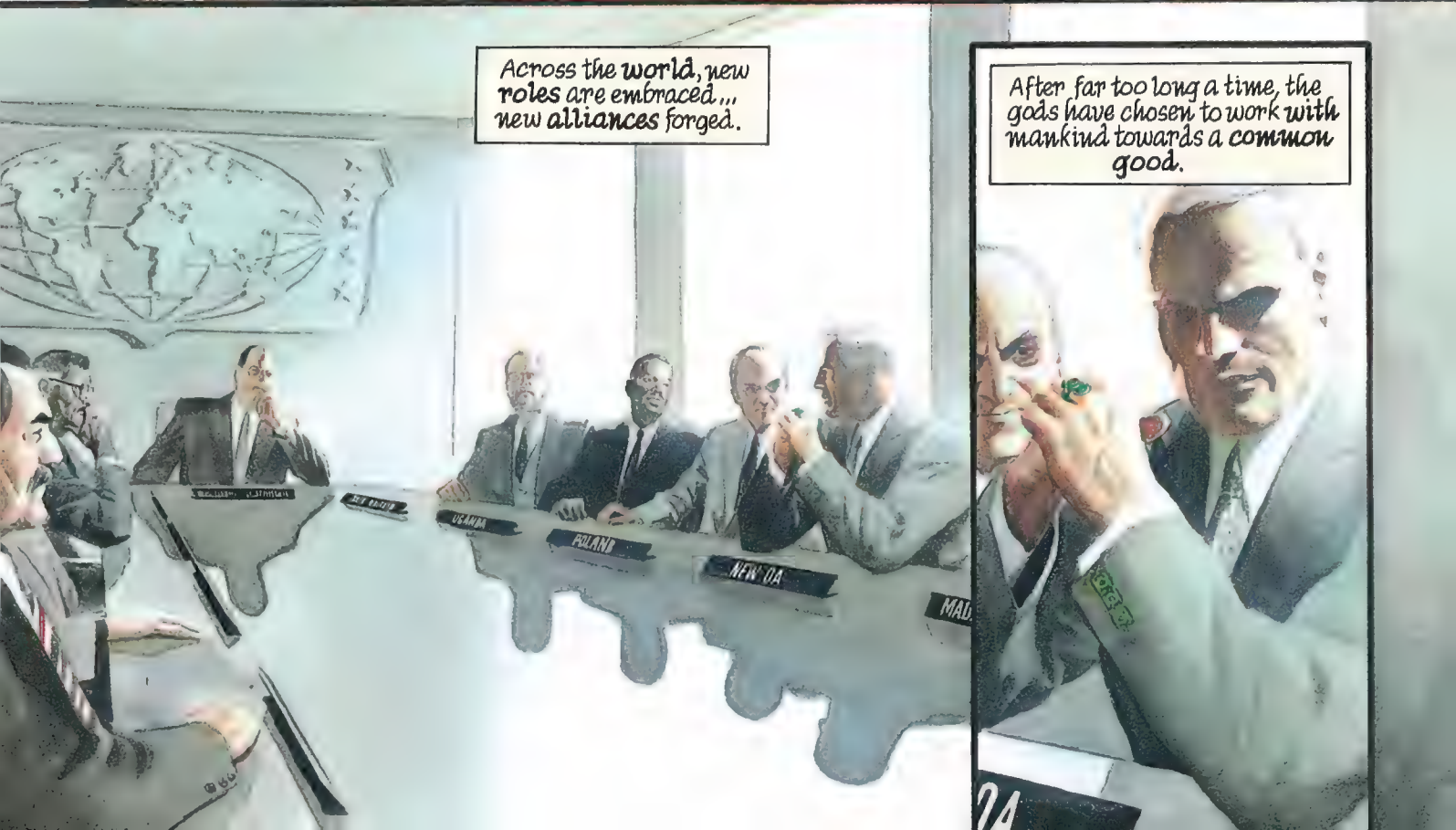
She is a teacher...

...whose work is just beginning.



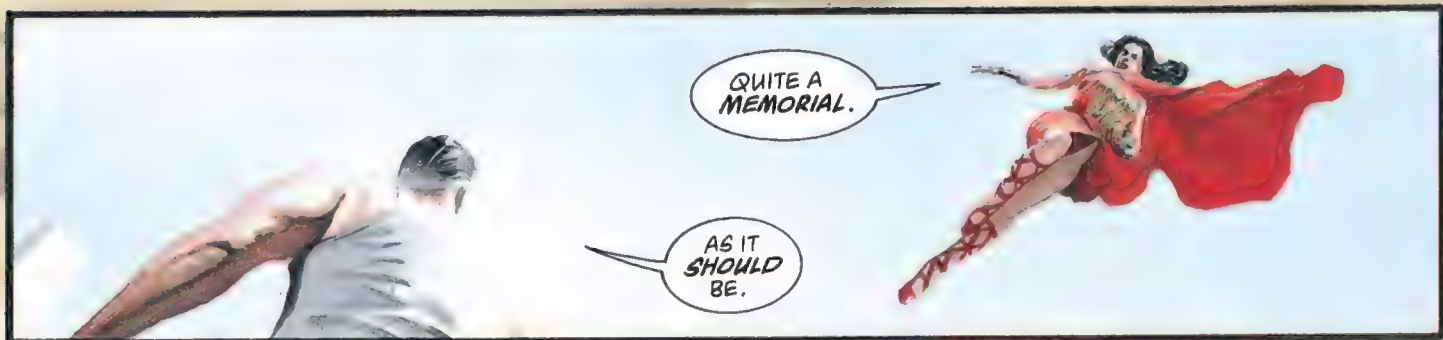
Across the world, new roles are embraced... new alliances forged.

After far too long a time, the gods have chosen to work with mankind towards a common good.





Only  
one  
works  
alone.



QUITE A  
MEMORIAL.

AS IT  
SHOULD  
BE.



NOT JUST FOR  
THOSE CLAIMED BY  
THE **BOMB**... BUT FOR  
**ALL** THOSE HERE  
WHO LOST THEIR  
LIVES TO OUR  
MISTAKES.

LET THEM  
REST IN **PEACE**,  
KAL.

THEY'LL ONLY  
**HAUNT** YOU IF  
YOU FORGET WHAT  
THEY **TAUGHT**  
YOU.



SPEAKING  
OF **WHICH**...

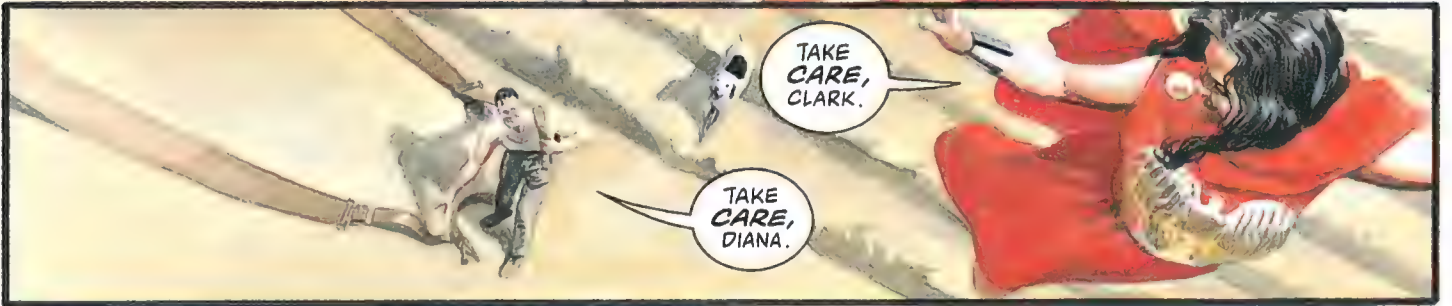
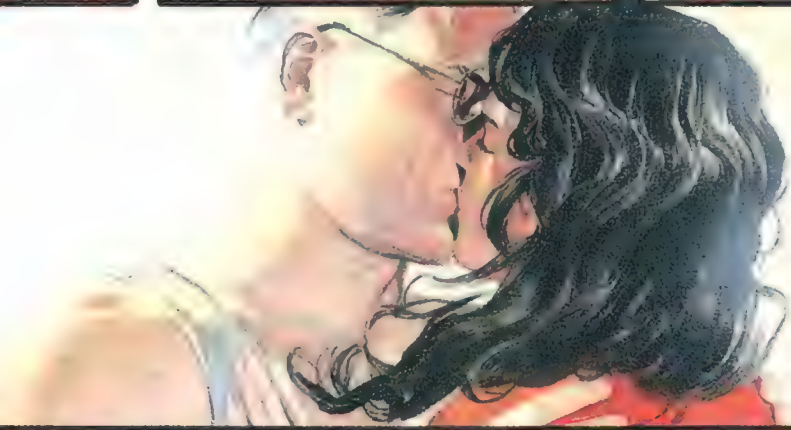
WHAT'S  
**THIS**?

A **GIFT**.


A LITTLE  
SOMETHING TO HELP  
YOU SEE MORE  
**CLEARLY**.










A wide shot of Norman McCay and Spectre standing on a rooftop. Spectre is on the left, looking towards the right. Norman is on the right, looking towards the left. In the background, a city skyline is visible under a clear blue sky.

ALL THE **SINS** HAVE BEEN **EXPOSED**, SPECTRE. TELL ME, IN THE **END**... WHO DO YOU **PUNISH**?

WHO IS **RESPONSIBLE** FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

NO ONE NEED SUFFER ANY **FURTHER** FOR THE TRAGEDIES WE HAVE **WITNESSED**, NORMAN MCCAY. DO NOT **MOCK** ME.

A close-up of Norman McCay's face. He has a white beard and is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression.

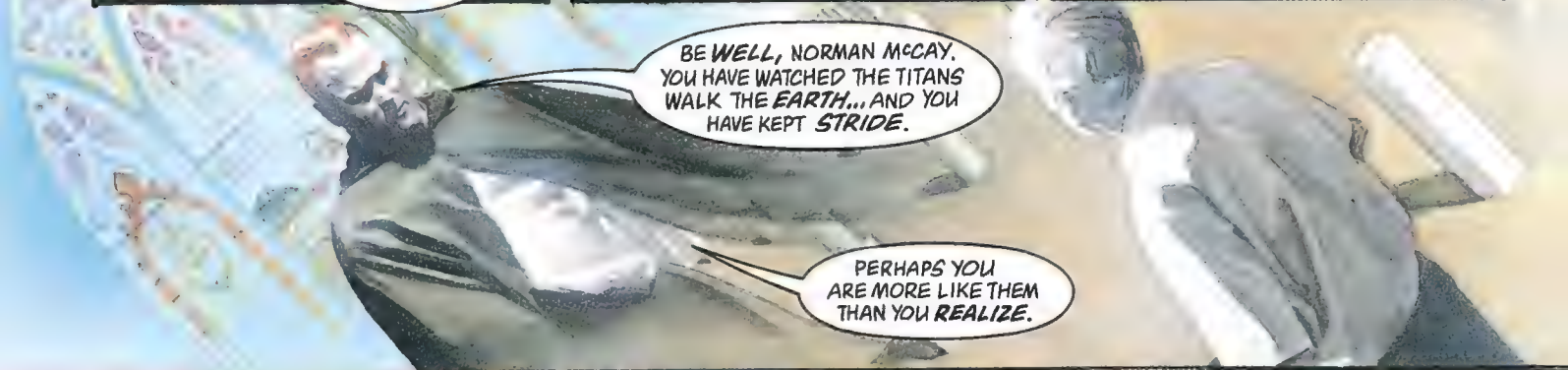
I'M **NOT**. I'M MERELY **WONDERING**...

WHEN YOU FIRST APPEARED **BEFORE** ME, YOU SAID YOU NEEDED A **HUMAN SOUL** TO BE YOUR **ANCHOR**... AND YET...

...YOU YOURSELF WERE ONCE AN ORDINARY MAN. TELL ME... WHAT WOULD **HIS** PERSPECTIVE HAVE BEEN?


A close-up of Spectre's face. He is wearing his signature black hood and mask, with only his eyes visible. He is looking directly at the camera.

AN EXCELLENT **QUESTION**.

A wide shot of Spectre and Norman McCay in a church. Spectre is on the left, leaning against a wooden bench. Norman is on the right, standing and looking towards Spectre. The church has large stained-glass windows and wooden pews.

BE **WELL**, NORMAN MCCAY. YOU HAVE WATCHED THE **TITANS** WALK THE **EARTH**... AND YOU HAVE KEPT **STRIDE**.

PERHAPS YOU ARE MORE LIKE THEM THAN YOU **REALIZE**.

A wide shot of Norman McCay in a church. He is standing in the aisle, looking towards the front of the church. The church has large stained-glass windows and wooden pews.

YOU **EXIST**... TO GIVE **HOPE**.



"...AND THE LORD GOD SENT HIS ANGEL TO SHOW HIS SERVANTS..."

And so the crisis passes.

There is no grand celebration. There is too much pain to be forgotten... too much rebuilding to master.

But there is faith... and so, though my visions no longer plague me, I preach the lessons they have taught me.

"...AND THE LORD GOD  
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That a dream is not always a prophecy.

That the future...

That a dream is not always a prophecy.

That the future...

...like so much else...

# THE REVELATION TO JOHN

...ga," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

91 John, your brother, who share with you in Jesus the tribulation and the kingdom and the patience.

feet as a... right hand upon... not, I am the first and the last, I am the living one; I died and am alive for evermore, and I will live with you. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright morning star. The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he who hears, let him come. And he who desires, let him take the water of life free of charge. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he who hears, let him come. And he who desires, let him take the water of life free of charge.

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[illegible]

... is open to interpretation.

And that hope is brightest ... when it dawns from fear.

... is open to interpretation.

And that hope is brightest ... when it dawns from fear.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, looking down. A speech bubble next to him contains the text: "GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL." and "AMEN."

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of an elderly man with a white beard and glasses, looking down. A speech bubble next to him contains the text: "GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL." and "AMEN."



**One-Year Later...**





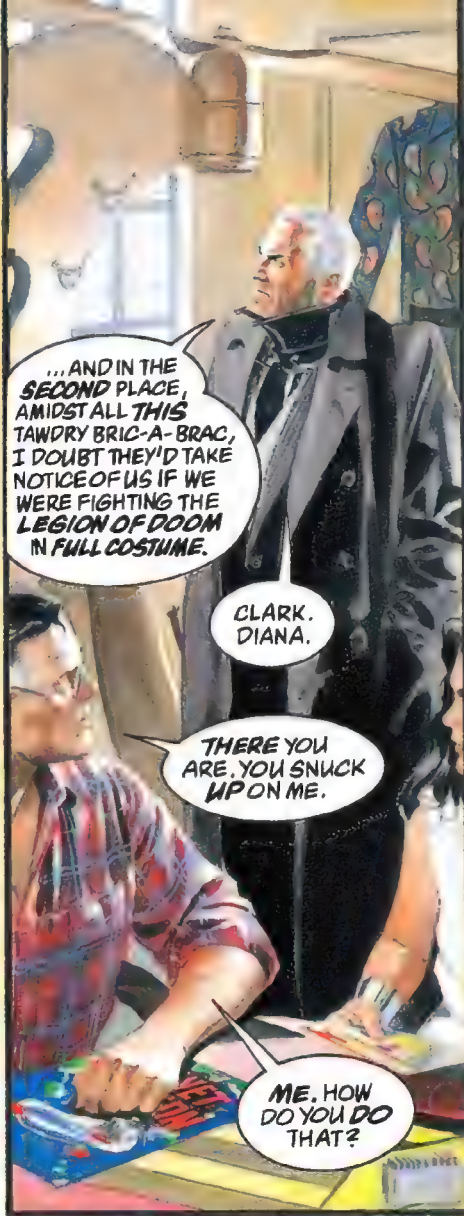




IT'S AWFULLY CROWDED. YOU'RE SURE WE WON'T BE RECOGNIZED?

KRYPTONITE

HARDLY LIKELY. IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU WROTE THE BOOK ON SECRET IDENTITIES...

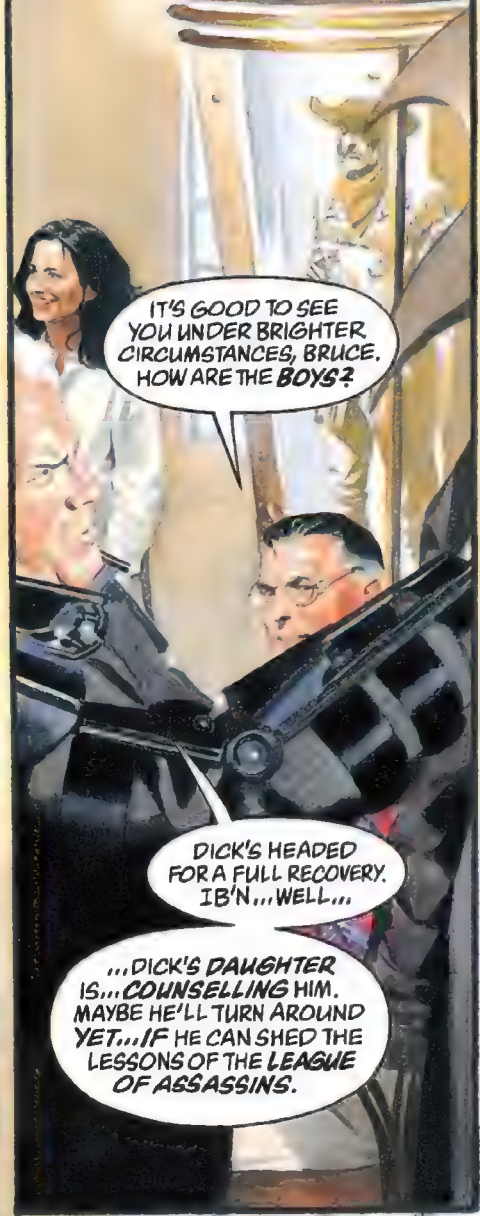


...AND IN THE SECOND PLACE, AMIDST ALL THIS TAWDRY BRIC-A-BRAC, I DOUBT THEY'D TAKE NOTICE OF US IF WE WERE FIGHTING THE LEGION OF DOOM IN FULL COSTUME.

CLARK. DIANA.

THERE YOU ARE. YOU SNUCK UP ON ME.

ME. HOW DO YOU DO THAT?



IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU UNDER BRIGHTER CIRCUMSTANCES, BRUCE. HOW ARE THE BOYS?

DICK'S HEADED FOR A FULL RECOVERY. IB'N...WELL...

...DICK'S DAUGHTER IS... COUNSELLING HIM. MAYBE HE'LL TURN AROUND YET...IF HE CAN SHED THE LESSONS OF THE LEAGUE OF ASSASSINS.



THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE RAISED BY AN ISOLATED SOCIETY OF ZEALOTS. YOU END UP A LITTLE BRAIN-WASHED.

YOU DON'T SAY.



MAY I BRING YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK?

WATER'S FINE.

COFFEE.

AND KEEP IT COMING.

MILK.





TELL ME...OF ALL THE PLACES ON EARTH AND BEYOND WE COULD HAVE MET, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS ONE?

I DIDN'T.



I DID. I WAS CURIOUS. THE ATMOSPHERE IS ELEVATING AND HUMBLING AT THE SAMETIME.

SOME OF US CAN ALWAYS USE A LITTLE MORE HUMILITY.

EXCUSE ME. ARE YOU...

YES...?



...USING THE KETCHUP? WE'VE RUN OUT.

AH.

BE MY GUEST.



SO I GATHER FROM YOUR COMMUNIQUÉ WE HAVE BUSINESS?

WE HAVE SOME THINGS TO SETTLE, AT LEAST. NEWS TO SHARE. YOU AND I HAVEN'T REALLY SPOKEN MUCH SINCE...CAPTAIN MARVEL.

BUT BEFORE WE BEGIN, I THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE TO GIVE A MOMENT TO THOSE WHO FELL IN BATTLE. WE'RE LONG OVERDUE.

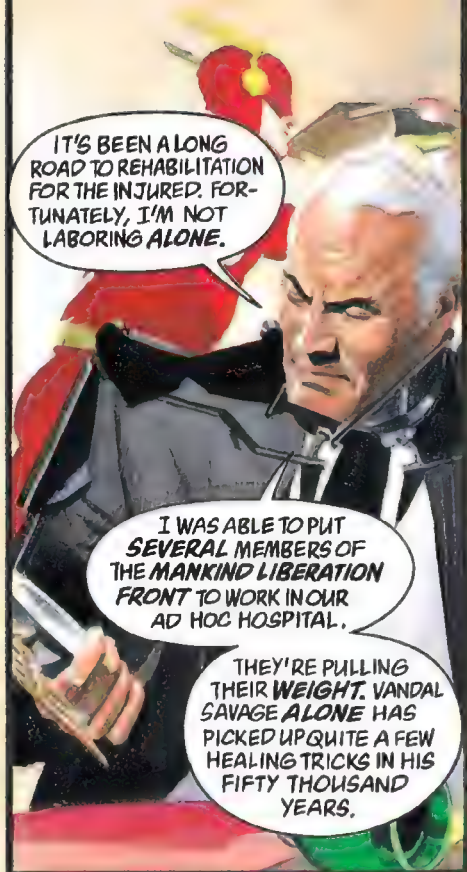


TO PAST FRIENDS.





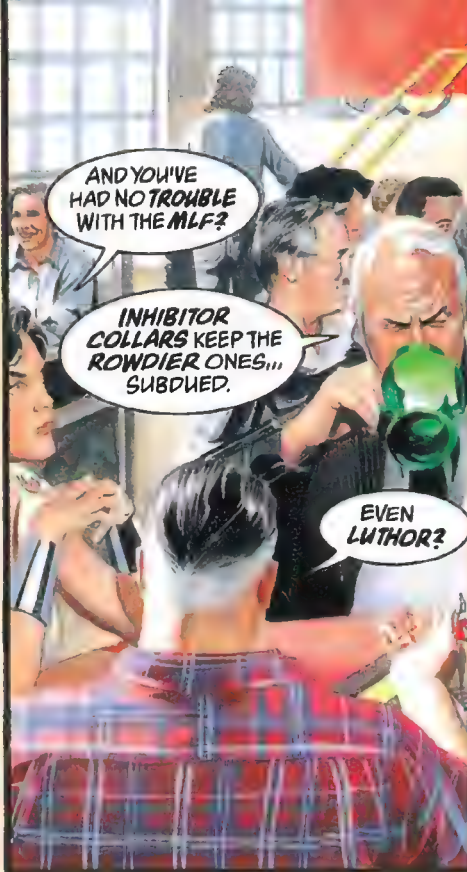




IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD TO REHABILITATION FOR THE INJURED. FORTUNATELY, I'M NOT LABORING ALONE.

I WAS ABLE TO PUT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE MANKIND LIBERATION FRONT TO WORK IN OUR AD HOC HOSPITAL.

THEY'RE PULLING THEIR **WEIGHT**. VANDAL SAVAGE ALONE HAS PICKED UP QUITE A FEW HEALING TRICKS IN HIS FIFTY THOUSAND YEARS.



AND YOU'VE HAD NO TROUBLE WITH THE MLF?

INHIBITOR COLLARS KEEP THE ROWDIER ONES... SUBDUED.

EVEN LUTHOR?



NOT SO MUCH. I CAUGHT HIM DOWN IN THE CAVE **TWICE** LAST MONTH, TRYING TO HACK THE **COMPUTER**.

HE SENDS HIS **BEST**.

REALLY?

NO.



THAT'S NOT **WELL-DONE**.

NOT A SHADE OVER **MEDIUM**. **MISS...?**

HERE.



DON'T TELL ME THAT'S IT. WE COULD HAVE COMPARED **RÉSUMÉS** BY PHONE. WE'RE HERE SOLELY TO PLAY **CATCH-UP?**

NOT EXACTLY. WE...

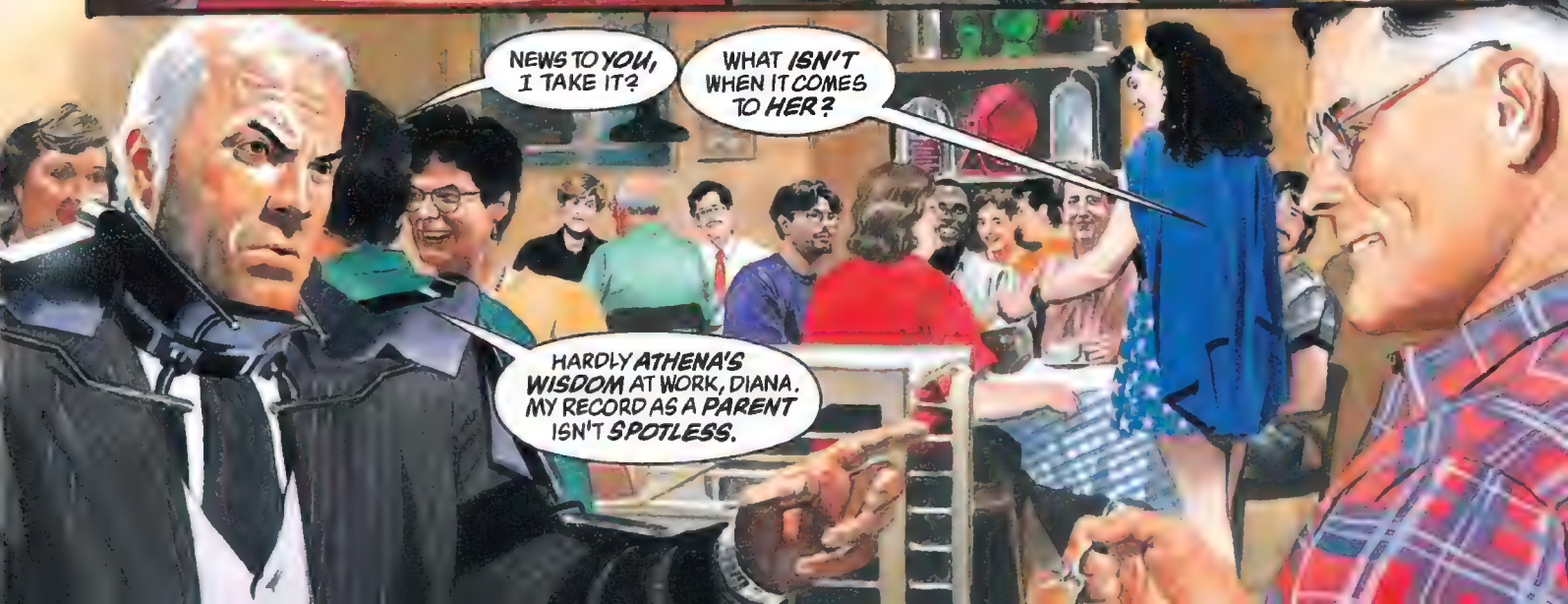
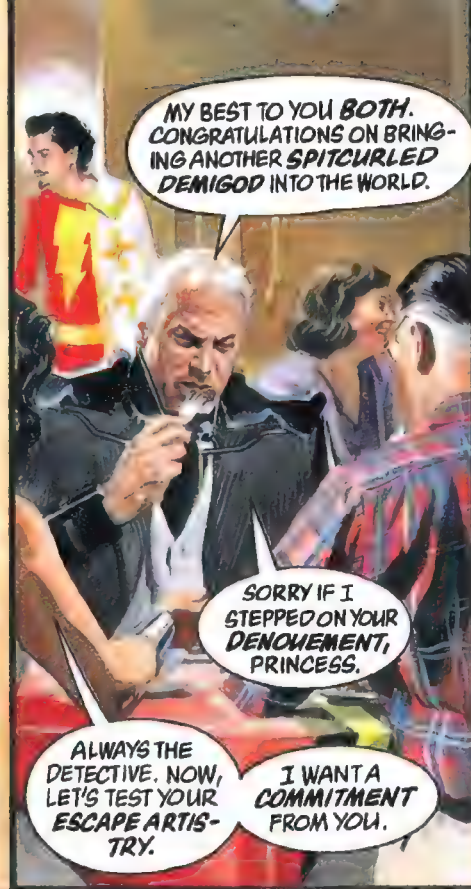
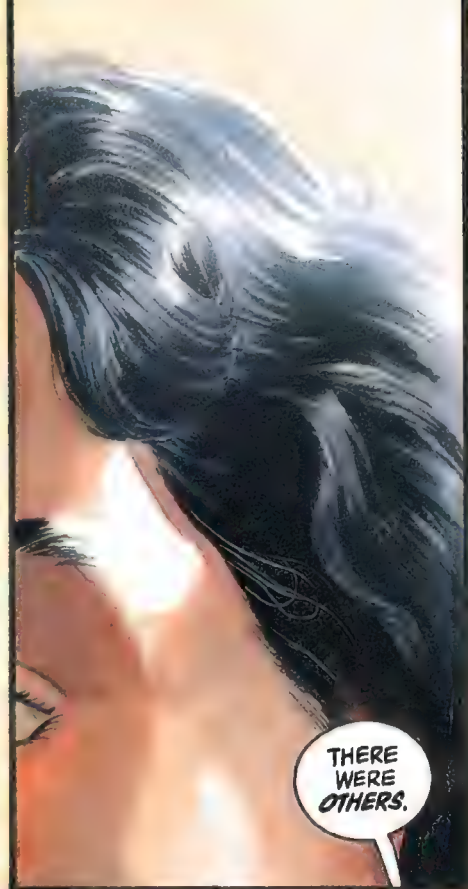
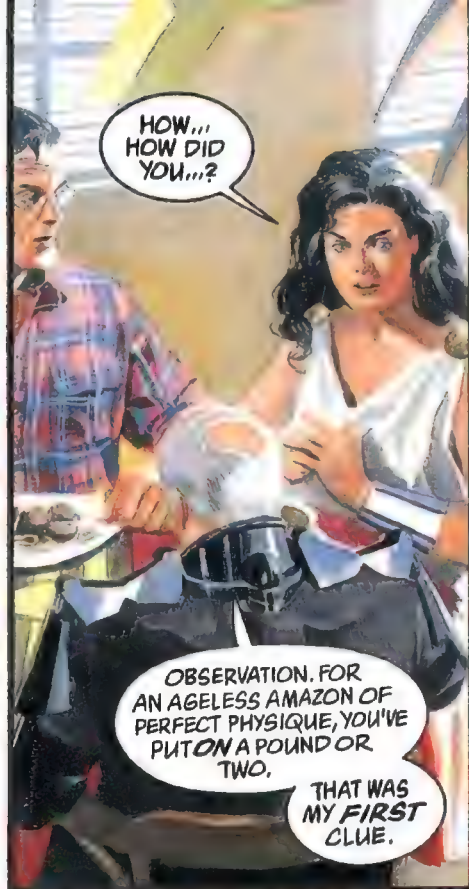
...WE HAVE SOMETHING TO ANNOUNCE.



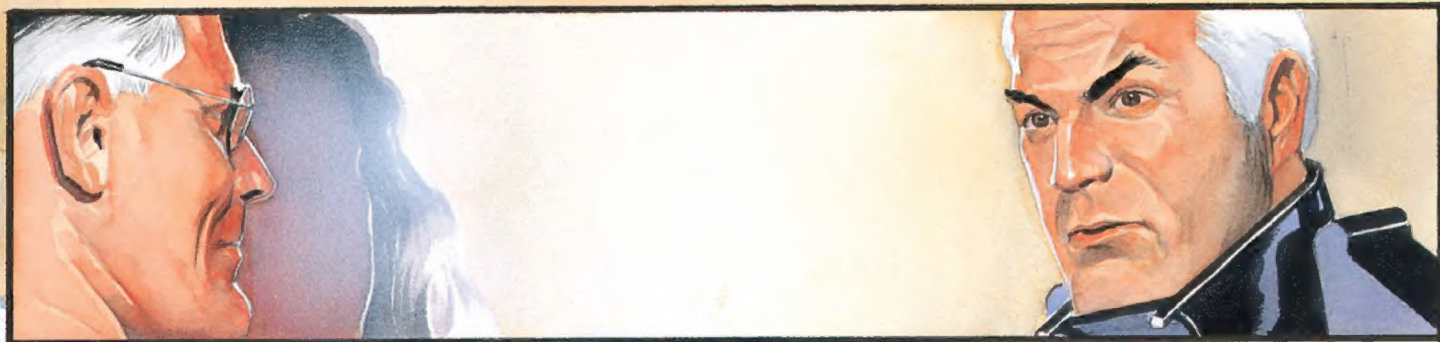
YOU'RE **PREGNANT**.



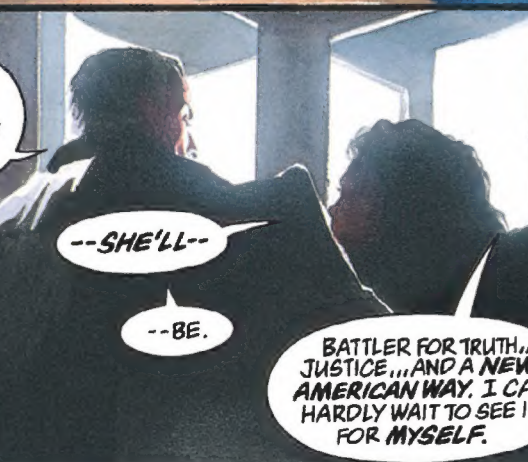
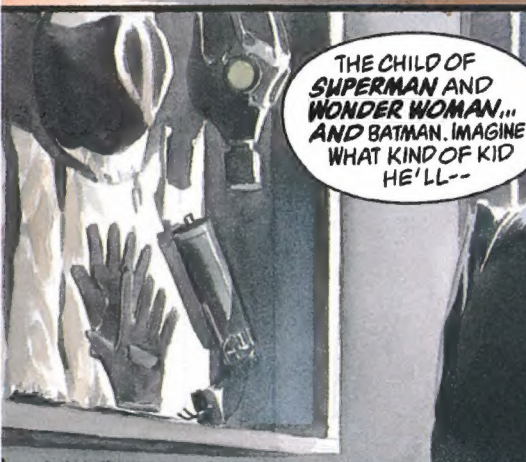
















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# The Hand